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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS

GET BINS OFF THE STREETS

COUNCIL chiefs are considering hefty £110 fines for people who put rubbish bins out in the wrong place or time.

The strict measures are being considered to stop pavements being blocked by wheelie bins left out.

Environmental services bosses want councillors to enforce existing rules to target lazy householders.

The council says it has identified a number of bad bin hotspots around Swale where householders habitually leave their wheelie bins in the way, blocking the pavement.

EXCLUSIVE

BY GARETH ARNOLD

A report from the head of amenities and development says councillors should enforce the law against "persistent offenders who cause problems for the community by leaving waste receptacles out unnecessarily early, in the wrong location, or leaving bins out some time after collection".

By law, people deemed to be causing nuisance through their behaviour can be fined up to £110, reduced to £80 if

paid within seven days.

But environment councillor John Disney insisted fines would only be used as a last resort, following letters and visits by council officers.

At a recent council meeting, other members expressed concerns about the proposals, asking how many warnings people would get before landing a fine and whether fines were really necessary.

But Mr Disney said although the majority of residents followed the rules, a few persistently caused problems.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



FAMILY STILL GRIEVING

TWO years on from the deaths of Terry and Vera Martin, a close family member has spoken for the first time about the grief which still consumes him.

The devoted pensioners were well-known for walking to the shops in Faversham holding hands.

Chris Fright, 83, Vera's cousin, says he is still struggling to come to terms with the brutal double murder which shocked the nation.

A bench was unveiled just yards from their home two weeks ago as a tribute to the couple.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

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2 How you can help preserve one of England's most beautiful landscapes. Search for Kent Downs on **Community TV**



3 Puppet reporter Ken Tishman looks at the controversial issue of wind farms in the county. See **Community TV**

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'Nursing home will be strain on doctors'

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

PLANS for a new nursing home in Faversham have been scaled back following concerns it would put too much strain on the town's medical services.

The application was approved after the number of beds to be offered at the home was slashed from 90 to just 38.

GPs warned that plans to build the four-storey, 90 bed nursing home would stretch the town's medical services to the limit.

Swale council recommended the plans for approval, despite objections from three doctors' surgeries who said the town's resources might not be able to cope with such a large influx of highly dependent patients.

Details were ironed out at a planning meeting in December, reducing the number of patients significantly and imposing several other conditions on the development at the former Eurocentre site off Whitstable Road.

However, Faversham town council still maintains the home will have a detrimental effect on services. It will now care for 18 elderly patients with dementia, and ten younger people in special disability units.

A ward member said the revised application was an improvement on the original, but it was still a large building for the site.

Significantly, unlike some other large homes, the new development will not have a doctors' surgery included in the home.

In a letter objecting to the original plans, Dr Andrew Taylor of Newton Place Surgery said: "The reality is that the burden on our services will increase significantly as a result of this development and, given our fixed resource, this will inevitably be at the expense of existing services."

"We would remind the council that these services will already be put under considerable strain by the pop-



NO MORE OAPS: Town doctors say Faversham's medical services can not cope with a new 90-bed nursing home

ulation increases that will result from the housing development surrounding this application."

But in their report to the planning committee, the applicants argued the home would be largely self sufficient, and would not pose a threat to local services. They suggested the home could even reduce pressure on local services as Faversham patients are admitted.

The applicants also said the home would provide a type of car not available at other homes in the area, and the new beds would meet this demand. At the meeting in December, some members agreed that Faversham did require more nursing care.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Companies focus on CCTV council contract

THE company responsible for upgrading Swale's outdated CCTV system will be chosen by a specially appointed panel instead of the usual voting.

Bids for the £74,000 contract will be in on Friday, when they will be analysed to see which company offers the best deal.

The council has to award one company the contract within this financial year, and to ensure this is done, the executive has delegated power to a cross party panel headed by the member for community safety.

Mayor's night out

SWALE'S chain gang will enjoy a night at the theatre in January at the Arden Theatre in Faversham.

The town's mayor Trevor Fentiman and his wife Wendy invited the Mayor of Swale John Morris and mayoress Ann Morris to a reception in the Mayor's Parlour at the Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham tomorrow, January 3.

After the reception, the guests will make their way to the Arden Theatre to see a production of Sleeping Beauty.

Thieves are marked

POLICE stations in Swale are giving away free marking kits to label expensive gear and make it less attractive to thieves.

The UV pens and security labels included in the kits can be used to mark items such as bicycles, mobile phones and satellite navigation systems.

PCSO Adrian Fromm from the Neighbourhood Support Unit said: "Marked property is less attractive to a thief and will enable the police to return stolen items to their rightful owner should they be subsequently recovered."

Blessing of the seas

FAVERSHAM and Swale mayors will join dozens of other civic heads at the Blessing of Seas ceremony in Margate in January.

Each year a service is held at the Greek Orthodox Church, Westbrook Cottages, Margate, prior to a blessing of the seas ceremony at Marine Sands.

The mayors will join the procession of mayors and other visiting guests attending the ceremony on Sunday, followed by lunch in the Winter Gardens.

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Two years on and the agony remains

'I don't think the grief will ever leave me'

EXCLUSIVE

BY NICK AMES

A RELATIVE of tragic couple Terry and Vera Martin – murdered in their home two years ago – has spoken for the first time of the grief which still consumes him.

Chris Fright, 83, from Thanet, was one of the last people to see the pair alive and phoned them repeatedly unaware that they lay dead in their lounge for four days in January 2006.

The husband and wife – married for 40 years – had been beaten, stabbed, kicked, punched and stamped on after disturbing burglar Brett Clifton, who was on bail for robbery at the time of the attack.

The pensioners had discovered Clifton in their home in Abbey Street, and put up a struggle.

He attacked them before using their car as a



IN LOVING MEMORY: The new bench outside murdered couple Terry and Vera Martin's home in Abbey Street

getaway vehicle. Clifton was jailed for life for the double murder.

Even after two years Mr Fright says he has not come to terms with their horrific deaths.

He said: "Vera was my cousin and we were very close. She had no children, just me and my brother, who is now paralysed.

"Terry and Vera married quite late in life, but they were a wonderful couple. Every day they used to go shopping together – that is what they enjoyed. They never did anyone any harm in their lives.

"When they married they celebrated by buying fish and chips – I'll always remember that."

Mr Fright added: "The day before they were

killed – which was a Saturday – we had been out together in the car which that man used to get away from their home.

"My last words to her were 'all right Vera – call you on Monday', which is what I always did.

"I tried calling all day Monday and all day Tuesday, but there was no reply. I kept feeling something was wrong, then I heard on the radio about a murder in Abbey Street.

"Straight away I was on to the police and then I was told. I felt absolutely terrible. I could not believe a lovely couple who lived for each other could have such an awful end to their lives.

"Two years on the grief is still there, each and every day. I don't think it will ever go away."

Firefighters turn medics in rural areas

FIREFIGHTERS have shown their versatility by responding to more than 100 life-threatening medical emergencies in the last three months.

Since mid-September, as well as answering calls to fires, road traffic collisions and rescues, Eastchurch firefighters have been acting as emergency paramedics – helping the ambulance service cover remote and isolated areas that are hard to reach.

Under the co-responding scheme, firefighters administer vital first aid treatment to patients until medics arrive at the scene.

Area manager for north division Steve Jeffery said: "I'm very proud of the co-responders at Eastchurch.

"They have taken on the additional training with enthusiasm, completing the training well on target and are now having to respond to a higher amount of call-outs.

"As the crews are retained firefighters and with most having other jobs and responsibilities, this has taken a great deal of commitment, for which they should be commended."

Kent community defibrillation officer Mick Troth said: "The earliest medical intervention can mean the difference between life and death.

"Having additional resources to call on in areas like Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey can and does make all the difference."

KENT Fire and Rescue service suggests a New Year's resolution that could be a life saver – fit a smoke alarm for 2008.

Firefighters have released several tips to reduce the risk of a blaze and to get out alive.

Head of community fire safety, Stuart Skilton, said: "We all make resolutions at this time of year but don't ignore your safety."

If you have an alarm, check the battery.

Rubbish fines

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

At present the only action the council takes against problem bin owners is sending warning letters.

It also has the option stopping bins being given to whole streets.

Council officers say the fines would give them a last resort – which might keep persistent offenders in line.

The proposal is currently being considered by the environment and sustainability scrutiny panel.

They will also decide how many warnings should be issued prior to a fine.

The report will come back before the council executive in the next few weeks.

'Victory at last' as ASW steel workers get pension pledge

BY JON COATES

STEEL workers were given a good start to the New Year with the Government announcing a £2.9 billion package rescue for those who lost their pensions.

The 'lifeboat' cash was pledged by Work and Pensions Secretary Peter Hain after protests from workers left high and dry when their company schemes collapsed.

It will benefit hundreds of workers left without pensions when Sheerness-based Allied Steel and Wire went bust in 2002.

Won

The pay out will see them retain 90 per cent of their original pension, but will not be paid to those who retired due to ill health before the age of 60.

It is hoped the money will start to be paid out in March or April.

Dr Ros Altmann, from the Pensions Action Group, said: "Finally we have won – it is unbelievable.

"I am delighted. "These people really deserve it.

It will allow those affected to get their lives back.

"If we're sitting here in nine months then all hell will break loose. We've had enough spin on this – we want action."

Fellow campaigner Andrew Parr, 63, who lost his pension when ASW collapsed, added: "I feel very pleasantly surprised. I thought we would get some kind of improved compensation package, but I wasn't holding my breath."

THE Pensions Action Group staged a naked 'Stripped of Our Pensions' protest at both the Labour and Tory party conferences this year.

Dozens of steelworkers also held an all-night vigil outside No10 Downing Street in November in protest at the lack of Government action.

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Full screen

Steve Loader meets members of the Left Hookers Club



● **CANTERBURY** Cathedral is crumbling because of old age, said campaigners hoping to raise £50 million to save the ancient and iconic Kent landmark.

● **MOST** of Kent's road users were caught up in the chaos caused by Operation Stack, when police partially close part of the M20 every time the ports of Dover or Calais struggle against the weather or industrial action. Kent County Council shortlisted three sites for use as a giant lorry park.

● **MILLIONAIRE** Tory donor Stuart Wheeler made the shock announcement he was considering giving money to the Eurosceptic UK Independence Party.

The spread-bet tycoon, who owns Chilham Castle, said he wanted the Tory Party to take a harder line on Europe.

The Kent on Sunday revelation sent shockwaves through Westminster and was the top item in all major news bulletins the next day.



● **KOS** interviewed the partially blind widow of a war hero who had been left distraught after thieves broke into her home and stole his medals. Commander Guy Clarabut, a submarine captain, was awarded a Distinguished Service Order, Distinguished Service Cross and two Military Crosses for his valiant and brave actions during World War Two.

● **THE** Bishop of Rochester warned that Britain could return to a "form of barbarism" if the decline of Christianity continued.

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali described Islam as the biggest threat facing the West since communism and called on the Government to stop being embarrassed of identifying with the nation's Christian roots.

● **SINGER** James Morrison visited Kent to play a low-key gig at the ABode hotel's pub in Canterbury as a guest of Invicta FM's excellent Live at the Local series.

Later that week the charismatic 22-year-old was named the Best British Solo Artist at the Brit Awards.



● **LOCAL** government in Ashford and the regional development agency became mired in a pornography scandal in March. Martin Bacon was the £100,000 managing director of Ashford's Future, the quango set up to deliver regeneration and jobs.

He suddenly resigned and Ashford council and the South East England Development Agency closed ranks. Finally, council leader Paul Clokie confirmed to KoS that Mr Bacon had been downloading pornography on his office computer.

● **THIS** month it was revealed £2m of taxpayers' money was being paid to council bosses in Kent every year.

The Kent on Sunday investigation into local authority pay packets revealed how nearly all of the county's 16 chief executives enjoyed salaries of around £100,000 a year.

And Kent County Council's Peter Gilroy was the UK's top paid chief executive. He earns £230,000 a year, which is more than the Prime Minister.

● **KENT** County Council came under fire again this month for wasting £90,000 on a failed scheme to set up passenger flights to America from Manston Airport.

Tour operator Cosmos pulled out and KCC lost all of its cash. The loss came less than two years after EUjet went bust. KCC had also invested £100,000 in that failed venture.

Review of 2007

It has been another eventful year for Kent, with everything from the Tour de France to earthquakes making headlines. Here's the pick of the news, as reported by our sister paper Kent on Sunday, over the last 365 days



● **PEOPLE** in east Kent suffered an earthquake on Saturday, April 28.

The tremor, which measured 4.3 on the Richter Scale, struck at 8.19am and caused an estimated £20m insurance bill. Thousands of homes were left temporarily without power in Folkestone and Dover.

● **THRILLER** writer David Hewson published his account of the battle to prevent the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at Wye from being covered in thousands of homes.

Saved told of the campaign fought against Imperial College, Kent County Council and Ashford council, which were working together to push through plans for a massive housing estate and a science park at Wye.

One of the reviews said: "This book is invaluable for any community, rural or otherwise, whose way of life and environment is being threatened by seemingly overwhelming fire-power and resources."



● **THE** deputy leader of Kent County Council was in the American state of Virginia helping to celebrate the Queen's state visit.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first English-speaking settlement at Jamestown.

KCC's Cllr Alex King led a Kent delegation to Virginia.

● **KENT** on Sunday exposed the injustice of how one third of the county's care homes only got 'adequate' or 'poor' ratings.

Age Concern, Britain's largest charity for old

people, said standards at many of the homes were "just not good enough".

But KCC pointed out that 60 per cent of homes were assessed as 'good' or 'excellent' and less than 10 per cent were 'poor'.

● **A POLL** by Kent on Sunday showed Tory MPs in the county were overwhelmingly in favour of keeping grammar schools.

And seven out of 15 even said they would like to see more built – in defiance of the Conservative leadership, which had ruled out a new generation of the schools.



● **TONY** Blair congratulated Kent on Sunday and its readers for its campaign to help the village of Kent in Sierra Leone.

The message of support from the Prime Minister came after KoS delivered a tonne of donated schoolbooks and educational materials to the war-torn country.

● **THE** Home Office sparked anger and incomprehension over its decision to deport former professional cricketer Hartley Alleyne.

Mr Alleyne was refused a work permit and told to leave after the Home Office ruled his experience did not equate to the two A-levels needed to coach and work as a boarding assistant at St Edmund's School in Canterbury.

His campaign to stay continues backed by Kent on Sunday and Yourcanterbury.

● **VETERAN** paratrooper Mark Eyles-Thomas recalled the horrors of war in an interview with KoS to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War.

The 42-year-old, from Birling, told of how he

cradled a dying friend on the frozen slopes of Mount Longdon, the frost-covered strategic mount, which barred the way to the capital Port Stanley.

That night 23 paratroopers were killed, including three of Mr Eyles-Thomas' close friends.



● **SOME** village pubs could be forced to close by the smoking ban which came into force at the start of July, it was claimed.

The Kent-based head of a national publicans' group warned traditional community pubs that do not serve food were most at risk.

Godfrey Page, chairman of the Guild of Master Victuallers, which represents hundreds of pubs nationally, said the ban would inevitably lead to some closures.

● **HUNDREDS** of thousands flooded on to the streets of the county to watch the Tour de France make its way from London to Canterbury. On a rare day of good weather in the summer, the event was hailed a massive success, injecting millions of pounds into the local economy.

● **THE** Sierra Leone blind school choir's concert at Canterbury Cathedral was hailed as a triumph.

Around 700 people watched the magical performance by the choir from the Milton Margai School for the Blind.

The choir received a standing ovation at the finale. Audience members then donated more than £3,000 to the school.

Kent on Sunday organised the concert with the UK charity that supports the school.



● **HOLLYWOOD** star Matt Damon praised the director Paul Green-grass, who grew up in Kent.

The Bourne Ultimatum, directed by Greengrass and starring Damon in the title role, opened nationwide at cinemas in August.

Damon told Kent on Sunday: "Paul's style about not interfering in what's happening – it comes out of his documentary film-making."

● **AN ARMY** sniper revealed for the first time details of a ferocious battle in Iraq involving Kent-based troops.

Sergeant Dan Mills is a member of 1st Battalion, the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (1WPRR), which has its regimental headquarters in Canterbury.

He and a small company of 100 British soldiers held onto a remote base in the town of Al Amarah, in the Maysan province, while fanatical soldiers from the Mahdi Army attempted to dislodge them.

● **TV ACTOR** Chris Langham was found guilty of 15 counts of making indecent images of children. Langham, of Cranbrook, was later jailed for 10 months, though the sentence was later reduced on appeal.



● **NINETY** patients died as a result of contracting the superbug Clostridium difficile at hospitals run by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, according to a damning report from the Healthcare Commission.

The watchdog said there was "a litany of errors" in infection control and criticised the lack of leadership at the trust.

The trust's chief executive Rose Gibb resigned shortly before the report was made public.

● **A GROWING** number of families were facing unmanageable levels of debt – and experts warned the situation would escalate.

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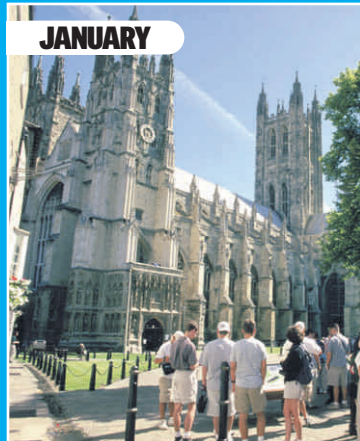
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Nationally, the amount of people losing their homes to debt was up by nearly a third on 2006's figures as a result of interest rates increasing, the commission said.

● **LORD Deedes'** youngest daughter, Lucy, spoke of her sadness on ending the family's ties with the county after their home was put up for sale.

The former Ashford MP and Daily Telegraph editor, who died aged 94, had lived in Aldington since 1946, but the family home went on the market in September for £750,000.

● **THE** local media scene received a much needed shake-up when KoS Media unleashed nine new local newspapers and a broadband TV channel. The free Your Local series were greeted with enthusiasm by readers across the county, while thousands flocked online to watch and upload clips to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

OCT 2007 ● **LOCAL** radio presenter Julie Maddocks bid an emotional farewell to her listeners after being axed from her afternoon slot by BBC Radio Kent bosses.

Her dismissal had upset colleagues. One told KoS: "It was not Julie's choice to go and it is incredibly sad."

● **WHEN** Tony Blair bought Gordon Brown an ice cream in Gillingham ahead of the last general election some of his close advisors were "almost vomiting" according to a new Blair biography.

The book, Blair Unbound, added: "They're virtually holding hands".

● **NEARLY** three quarters of all criminal offences committed in Kent go unsolved, figures revealed. The Home Office statistics, released in October, showed detection rates for every type of criminal offence.

Kent police detected 18 per cent of robberies; 49 per cent of violence cases; 29 per cent of sex offences; 16 per cent of criminal damage cases; 30 per cent of fraud and forgery cases and 20 per cent for theft and handling stolen goods.

NOV 2007 ● **THE** parents of Jake Alderton paid tribute to their loving son who died in the service of his country in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Jake Alderton, a soldier with Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment was killed in a road accident in Helmand Province.

Keith Alderton, his father, said: "If I could get him back tomorrow I'd have him, but what a fitting person to be that special, last soldier to die before Remembrance Sunday."

● **ESTATE** agents said the home informa-

tion packs (HIPs) were causing widespread confusion and should be scrapped.

The Government announced that the packs would be extended so that they cover all properties.

Agents in Kent said that HIPs had created more trouble than they have solved.

● **TWO** bodies were found at a house in Margate. Police discovered the body of missing schoolgirl Vicky Hamilton in the garden of 50 Irvine Drive.

The 15-year-old was last seen in Scotland in 1991. Peter Tobin, 61, has been charged with her murder.

Police later found the body of Dinah McNicol, who was last seen in Surrey in 1991.

● **UNMANNED** police spy planes could soon be patrolling the skies over Kent on the hunt for smugglers, criminals and erratic drivers. Cops are planning to introduce the lightweight drones, currently being used by the military in Iraq and Afghanistan, by 2012.

DEC 2007 ● **THE** South East England Development Agency was branded a costly talking shop responsible for a "chronic, systematic waste of public money".

The quango, set up by Labour in 1999, was under scrutiny after it emerged that its three-day-a-week chairman, James Braithwaite, spent more than £51,000 on taxis alone last year.

The political commentator Leo McKinstry accused Seeda - which spent £195 million last year - of having "a scandalous contempt for the public purse".

● **AN ARTIST** who is producing an exclusive artwork to be exhibited in Folkestone scooped this year's Turner Prize.

Mark Wallinger won the prestigious award for his work State Britain, a precise reconstruction of anti-war protestor Brian Haw's display that stood in Parliament Square before being taken down by police last year.

Mr Wallinger is one of 23 artists taking part in the first Folkestone Triennial, a cultural event in which public works of art will be installed around the town next summer.

● **THE ARCHBISHOP** of Canterbury made an impassioned Christmas appeal for mankind to care more about the world.

In a special message to Kent on Sunday readers, Dr Rowan Williams referred to recent talks in Bali on climate change. He called on people to help address global warming, even if that meant making sacrifices.

The Bishop of Rochester, meanwhile, was mourning the death of friend Benazir Bhutto.

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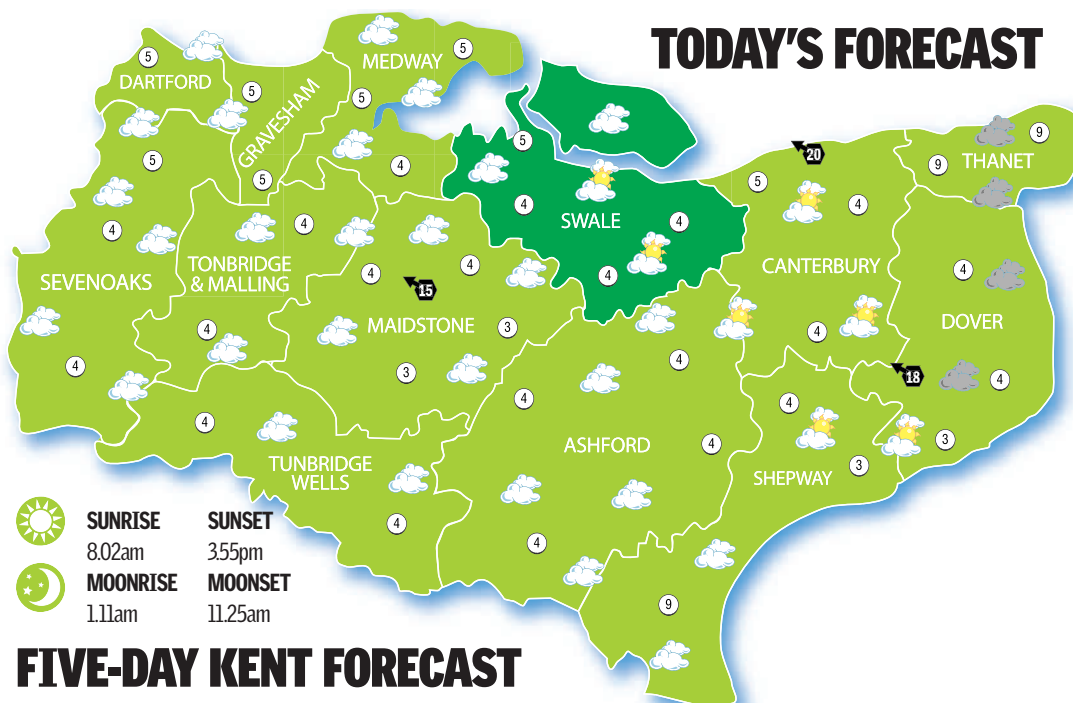
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NEWS IN BRIEF



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	6:04pm	5.1m
	Sunday	-	-
Dover	Saturday	4:21pm	5.5m
	Sunday	5:23pm	5.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	4:22pm	6.2m
	Sunday	-	-
Ramsgate	Saturday	4:50pm	4.2m
	Sunday	-	-
Sheerness	Saturday	5:53pm	4.9m
	Sunday	-	-
Whitstable	Saturday	5:58pm	4.6m
	Sunday	-	-



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	8°C	Madrid	7°C
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Barcelona	10°C	Paris	8°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	9°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	28°C
Cape Town	33°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	9°C	Tokyo	12°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	5°C
Hong Kong	19°C	Warsaw	0°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	20°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C	Gravesend	9°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C
Canterbury	7°C	7°C	4°C	3°C	7°C	Maidstone	8°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C
Chatham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Ramsgate	7°C	7°C	4°C	3°C	7°C
Dartford	9°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	Rochester	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C
Dover	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	Sevenoaks	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	5°C
Faversham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Sittingbourne	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C
Folkestone	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	Tonbridge	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C
Gillingham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Tun Wells	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C

Council looks to control house building in area

GUIDELINES to control house building in the district are being considered by the council.

A draft plan lays out what is and isn't acceptable in terms of "residential intensification", which can lead to more houses being squeezed in to an area as gardens and other open spaces are sold off.

In the plan, the council lays out rules on design and the way houses are fitted in around existing buildings.

The city council has decided that developments which share driveways are not acceptable, preferring homes built behind existing houses to have their own access routes.

Mature trees and other planting is also "to be resisted", and flats must have an obvious entrance on the street.

Blocked drains could put you on course for a fine

PEOPLE with water courses running through their property could be breaking the law if they allow them to become blocked.

Last year's floods prompted a comprehensive report from Canterbury council into many aspects of flood risk and prevention.

Blocked drainage ditches were identified as contributing to the problem, and the council are this year planning a publicity campaign to alert landowners to the issue.

Inspectors will check important drainage courses in the district to ensure they are clear.

Blocked or poorly maintained ditches could land the owners with a fine.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

PC CHRIS EDWARDS



Q What is your professional background?

A Before becoming a police officer I worked in a young offenders' institute. I wanted to help people before they were incarcerated and thought a good way to do this would be to become a police officer. I started here as a 'section officer' responding to emergency calls, dealing with a variety of incidents from domestic disputes and public disorder to road traffic collisions and even loose cows on the road! In May I joined the Chatham Town Centre Neighbourhood Team.

Q What does your job entail?

A I am one of a team patrolling Chatham High Street on a day-to-day basis. I patrol the town centre, enforcing the alcohol-control zone and I make an effort to get to know the retailers so they can come to me should they need help. I deal with any incidents that occur and do my best to stop people being antisocial and committing crime.

Q What are your favourite aspects in terms of working in Medway?

A I grew up in Medway so by working here I feel I am making a difference and giving something back. Some people joke about Chatham but I am seeing a positive change as

a result of the regeneration. I am encouraged by the response we get from the public who are pleased to have us patrolling the area.

Q Least favourite?

A Being a police officer we sometimes have to work antisocial hours, including Christmas and New Year, but this is all part of the job. An understanding family is a must!

Q What qualifications/skills are needed for your job?

A Obviously being physically fit is important part of the job as we are on our feet for long periods of time and occasionally have to chase the odd person who may have not noticed us asking them to stop. Being able engage with people to diffuse violent situations is an important skill.

Q What are the biggest challenges?

A Making people outside of the area know that Chatham is changing and also challenging people's perceptions of the town centre and of the police in general.

Q Is your job rewarding?

A Yes, I think it is one of the most rewarding jobs someone can do, whether it is reuniting a lost child with its parent, arresting a shoplifter or just making someone feel safer, I know I am making a difference.

Q What's been the highlight in your career in Medway?

A I was delighted to be awarded with an Area Commanders Certificate of Merit after stopping a youth with a firearm when I was off-duty in Maidstone. Everyday we can be faced with potentially dangerous situations and despite being off-duty at the time I couldn't turn a blind eye when I saw what was going on.

Q What would you like to achieve?

A I am happy patrolling the High Street and hope to continue doing this for some time. One of my goals would be to see a real change in the way people talk about Chatham High Street. The area is a great place to work and shop and it is getting better all the time. I think as long as this regular neighbourhood police presence remains the sense of community will continue to grow and calls of violence reduce.

• To contact the Town Centre Team email chatham.towncentre@kent.pnn.police.uk, or telephone 01634 792347.

QA

PC Chris Edwards has been an officer for four years, and at 23 he is the youngest member of the Chatham Town Centre Neighbourhood Team. He tells **Simon Robinson** why he loves working in the High Street

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1 Wild about a baby gorilla

Amazing footage of the first gorilla to be born in the wild to reintroduced parents. The film's been released by the Canterbury-based Aspinall Foundation. The baby was born in the Republic of Gabon to wild-born orphans, 10-year-old Lekedi and 12-year-old Marco.



2 Signs that buzzards are back

Some of the most exciting video for bird watchers during 2007 was this film of the Common Buzzard flying above Selsted near Folkestone. The pair were filmed by KOS cameraman Paul Jerreat, proving the birds are re-establishing themselves in the county.



3 Cheers to helping war heroes

Reporter Nick Ames' short film tells how Faversham-based brewer Shepherd Neame has chosen to back the Help for Heroes campaign. All the cash raised from the charity will be going to help soldiers who have been injured in action.



4 Learn how to lay a hedge

No longer a dying art, this video gives a brief introduction into hedge laying and is useful for anyone considering going along to the course in Hawkinge on January 6. You can try yourself or just go along to watch between 10.30am and 3.30pm in Crete Road.



SPORT TV



A futsal coach teaching youngsters football skills

BUSINESS TV



Meet the mums who launched a child-friendly business

PROPERTY TV



Watch videos on the best of the county's property hotspots

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Author David Hewson discusses his best-selling thrillers

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Uncovering the county's history

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

BENEATH the Garden of England lie the remains of past civilisations from the earliest period of human history to the emergence of the Kingdom of Kent and beyond.

The archaeological richness of the county is explored in a new book that reveals how each new development in Kent, both major and minor, brings us closer to the past.

The Archaeology of Kent to AD 800 is edited by John Williams who is head of heritage conservation at Kent County Council.

Part of Mr Williams' job at KCC is to ensure the county's archaeological heritage is safeguarded and investigated through the planning process.

With 160,000 new homes planned for the Thames Gateway and areas including Ashford and Maidstone undergoing major growth he has his work cut out.

He said ancient sites were being discovered everywhere that the growth agenda has an impact.

"We have been able to revise our story and get it up to date but the archaeological work is ongoing and we will continue to get major new contributions to the story of Kent.

"Sites are coming up all the time – even since the book has been published there have been some wonderful finds.

"At the A2 south of Gravesend, two very rich early Roman graves were discovered and there were some prehistoric field systems and Anglo-Saxon remains at Ebbsfleet."

Mr Williams told how Kent's archaeology is unique because of the county's proximity to mainland Europe.

Britain used to be a peninsula with the North Downs continuing uninterrupted into Northern France. During later periods of pre-history and carrying on into modern time links across the Channel have continued with the arrival of the Romans and the Normans.

"Kent is one of the key places. There were a lot of Stone Age discoveries in north Kent on the farmland near the gravel of the Thames," he said.

Swanscombe was home to the oldest human

remains in the country until a recent find in Sussex. The skull was from a woman believed have died 400,000 years ago.

Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon discoveries have been made in Canterbury, which has layers of past generations beneath the foundations of modern stores.

The redevelopment of the Whitefriars shopping centre from 2000 to 2003 allowed archaeologists to carry out a large-scale excavation of medieval and Roman Canterbury.

Jewellery and personal items dating from Anglo-Saxon times show that Kentish fashions in the sixth to seventh century were a fusion of Scandinavian forms and other continental mode of decoration.

The use and availability of luxury materials marks out Kent from the rest of England, said Mr Williams.

Grave

Pendants found in a grave in Sibbertswold near Dover include two imported gold coins, garnet and amethyst cabochons, which are gem stones that have been shaped and polished, and decorated millefiori – or coloured – glass.

The pendants and necklaces found unearthed would not look out of place adorning a modern woman, but they are more than 1,300 years old.

Mr Williams said: "The book offers something for both those with a real interest in archaeology and it is hoped that the people with a more general interest in Kent and its past will be attracted by it.

"The joy is its accessibility and that is what we were aiming for."

The book is packed full of colour illustrations and accurate drawings that recreate archaeological sites and digs.

Contributors include Martin Millett, who is Laurence Professor of Classical Archaeology at Cambridge University, a specialist in the social and economic change in the Roman world.

Francis Wenban-Smith, a principal research fellow in the department of archaeology at the University of Southampton, who is currently leading the Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project also contributed.

The book costs £25, published by KCC and Boydell Press from all good bookshops. Order copies from Business Support, Heritage Conservation Kent County Council, Second Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, ME14 1XX.



TREASURE TROVE: Large excavation of medieval and Roman Canterbury (2000-03) at the site of the Whitefriars shopping centre



FINDINGS: Middle Bronze Age gold torcs (rigid necklaces) from the River Medway at Aylesford (can be seen at the Maidstone Museum) (right); (Above) Dress fittings from a grave in Finglesham near Sandwich, which include a Scandinavian square-headed brooch and Frankish bird brooches; (above right) View of the penstocks and wheelpit – parts of an eight century watermill found at Ebbsfleet. It is thought to be the first found of such an early date outside early Christian Ireland

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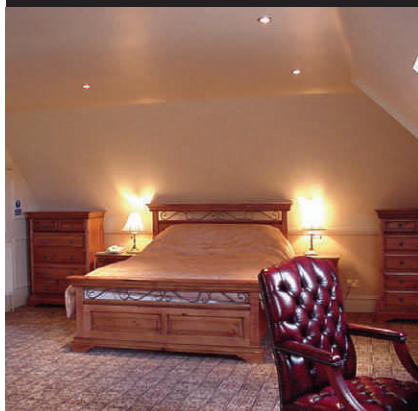
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SWALE SHOPPING

McDonald's is spicing things up for 2008

TASTE buds will be tingling this January as the new 'Spice It Up' menu arrives at one of the nation's favourite fast-food restaurants.

From today, customers can keep warm over the New Year with McDonald's spicy new menu. It includes the New Year special, Hot 'n' Spicy quarter and the Cajun Chicken Wrap both from £2.79, and potato wedges with sour cream and chive dip from £1.39.

Oxfam online the place for bargain signed books

FINDING exciting presents for book-worms can be easier with the help of Oxfam.

The charity's online shop sells signed copies of books by a wide range of authors, with some costing as little as £4.99. At the time of writing, the website had signed books by the likes of Spike Milligan, Chris Ryan, Jilly Cooper and Carol Vorderman up for grabs.

To find out more, visit the website at www.oxfam.org.uk.

See this year's best shops go head to head

GAMESTATION, Mothercare and Hotel Chocolat are among the nominees for the Retail Week Awards 2008.

The trio are joined in the Speciality Retail category by Dreams, Bathstore and Mamas & Papas. A host of high street stores and supermarkets have been shortlisted in a number of categories, from best customer service initiative to most impressive advertising campaign.

See the nominees online at www.retail-week-awards.co.uk.

M&S's online shirts are made to measure

FOR a tailored look with less hassle, try out Marks & Spencer's made-to-measure shirt service for men.

Available exclusively online, customers can order individually styled and fitted shirts in just five easy steps. Choose from different fabric and styling options, select details such as stitching and cuffs and even go for a personal monogram if desired.

Prices start at £30 and shirts will be delivered free within 21 days.

Becks brief appearance sends sales soaring

DAVID Beckham's controversial decision to model Emporio Armani underwear has sent sales through the roof.

His provocative appearance in the black and white adverts has prompted a rush for the white briefs in America. The range will not be available in the UK until the spring, but some retailers have reportedly set up waiting lists for the coveted pants.

In the meantime, some Emporio Armani underwear can be found at House of Fraser.

Advertisement feature



www.idealspinecentre.co.uk

NEWS RELEASE

SPINE PRACTITIONER DONATES £10K TO HELP PEOPLE

This week a local health professional has kindly donated a cheque for more than £1,000 for the Salvation Army.

Dr. Farthing stated, "I have to give thanks to all of my patients who made this possible. During the year, we have saved a portion of our consultation fee to raise money for needed gifts for people less fortunate this Christmas".

"We have also provided literally hundreds of gifts to teenagers who may not have received anything this year. All of the presents have come from practice members kindly donating all kinds of things".

This is the second year running and the Ideal Spine Centre has committed to keep this up for many years to come.

Dr. Farthing said, "To help even more local people in our community, I have committed to providing a spine and health check, valued over £55 for free up to 10,000."

Nearly 200 people will be able to take advantage of this incredible opportunity.

The purpose of this drive is to help people who are still suffering, possibly taking pain-killing medication or have not been given a solution to their problems. Many people seek relief every day, but what the Ideal Spine Centre is aiming to do is address the cause of your problems.

This is a one-off opportunity, so if you want to take your family, you had better call quickly!

No doubt the phones will run hot this Christmas at the Ideal Spine Centre. Dr. Farthing said his Clinical Assistants are ready to help, so if you get the answering machine they will call you back and reserve you a place.

This offer finishes on January 31st!

GIFT OF BETTER HEALTH

When people are sick and dying, there are two things that they have in common:

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Strange world of the RSPCA

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

DEPRESSED fish, radioactive squirrels and shoe scrapers masquerading as hedgehogs; 2007 was another busy year for the RSPCA.

The animal welfare society answers more than a million calls each year, and for officers in the South East, last year provided some of the strangest ever.

One caller phoned to report a moorhen "acting strangely", while another claimed to have a frog in their pond that had swallowed a golf ball.

Fortunately the radioactive squirrel turned out to be an albino, although there was little the RSPCA could do for one caller's apparently depressed fish.

A similar reply was given to the man who rang to say he was dressed as a dog and his girlfriend was beating him so he wanted to log a complaint against her.

Other bizarre requests include asking officers to come and rescue a fly from a spider's web, and the rather possessive caller who said: "There's a bird sat on my wall. It's



FEELING BLUE?: One caller claimed their goldfish was depressed

my wall and I don't want the bird there."

RSPCA director of animal welfare and promotion, John Rolls said: "The society relies on the public to be our eyes and ears by reporting cruelty. The fact so many people call the RSPCA reaffirms that we are a nation of animal lovers who aren't afraid to report cruelty or neglect.

"The RSPCA would like to ask the public to make certain when calling that their concerns are valid.

"Whilst we realise that many calls received can turn out to be genuine mistakes, every year inspectors and animal collection officers are delayed responding to cruelty complaints because they have been sent to a hoax callout."

Some calls were made with the best intentions, but turned out to be rather less serious than first thought. One concerned woman called about a hedgehog trapped in her basement. It turned out to be a shoe scraper.

In another case an inspector answered a call about an abandoned dog lying injured in a park. On arrival he discovered it was a broken umbrella.

An elderly lady rang to report a trapped animal in her loft after she heard noises coming from above. When the animal collection officer attended the creature causing concern turned out to be a low battery in a smoke detector.

The RSPCA say this is a common mistake.

Despite the weird and wonderful call outs, the RSPCA is keen for anyone wishing to report genuine acts of cruelty, or ask for advice to phone them on 0300 1234 999.

£520m social care boost

MORE than half a billion pounds has been set aside to help support elderly people in Kent.

The Government has announced an extra £520 million pounds to be shared between the county's districts in an effort to transform social care over the next three years.

The announcement came as the Health Secretary joined other government ministers in signing a ground-breaking concordat, between central government, local government, the professional leadership of adult social care and the NHS.

The principles of the Putting People First concordat aims to personalise social care including shifting the balance towards early intervention and prevention.

Jonathan Shaw, MP for Chatham and Aylesford, said: "The extra £520 million will be given to councils as a social care reform grant to help them redesign and reshape their systems.

"It will give the vast majority of people who receive funded care their own personal budgets so they can choose the support services they want for themselves or a family member.

"The grants will ensure investment in support which keeps older people healthy and tackles the scourge of loneliness and isolation: closer collaboration between local government and the NHS so people receive more coordinated and efficient support in the community."

The additional funding follows Government predictions that by 2025, one fifth of the population and one quarter of all adults will be over state pension age.

The Wanless Review in 2006 estimated that the cost of social care for older people is estimated to rise from £10.1bn in 2002 to £24bn by 2026.

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yourcompetition

WIN! An animal adoption box

YOURLOCAL Newspaper has come together with Kent based charity, The Aspinall Foundation, to give readers the chance to win an animal 'adoption box' complete with a tiger, elephant or gorilla cuddly toy, helping the charity continue in their aim to protect and breed endangered animals and return them to their natural habitat in the wild.

"Adopt in a box", encourages children to learn more about the charity's animal protection and conservation programmes, as well as raising funds to support this work.

This is your chance to win your own "adopt in a box". Normally the cost is £25 which includes either a cuddly Tugar, the tiger, housed at Port Lympne or Jara, the elephant, who lives at Howletts, both of whom are featured on BBC TV's Roar or Djéké who lives in Africa. An entry ticket to either park, an adoption certificate, plus fun stuff for your mobile or PC is also included.

The Aspinall Foundation supports and manages Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks, home to more than 1,000 animals and 90



different species.

The parks house the largest captive group of western lowland gorillas in the world; the largest breeding herd of black rhino outside of Africa and the largest collection of African elephants in Europe. The parks are at the forefront of breeding rare and endangered species including clouded leopard, rusty spotted cats, gibbons, drills, black and white ruffed lemurs, hunting dogs, lions and tigers.

This work includes two gorilla rescue and rehabilitation projects in Gabon and Congo.

As well as joint conservation projects in Cambodia, South America and Tanzania, by way of rescue and rehabilitation, particularly of rhinos and primates.

To purchase one of these amazing adoption boxes please visit www.totallywild.net or call 01303 234199.

For your chance to win Tugar, Djéké or Jara,

simply answer the following question: **What are the names of the three animals that you can adopt in a box?**

Send your answer on a postcard or sealed envelope with your name, age, address and phone number to Adopt in a Box comp, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR Closing date is January 28, 2008.

1. This competition is not open to employees (and immediate families) of KOSmedia or any other company associated with it.

2. Entries which are altered, illegible or not in accordance with the rules will be disqualified.

3. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries lost or damaged. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

4. Entries must be received by noon on January 28, 2008 and names of the winners will be published in this newspaper. There is no cash alternative to the prize.

The Aspinall Foundation would like to keep readers updated with its work, including sending out the free magazine, 'WildCry'. Please write on your entry 'NO UPDATES' if you would prefer not to be updated.



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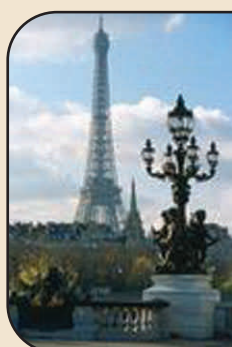
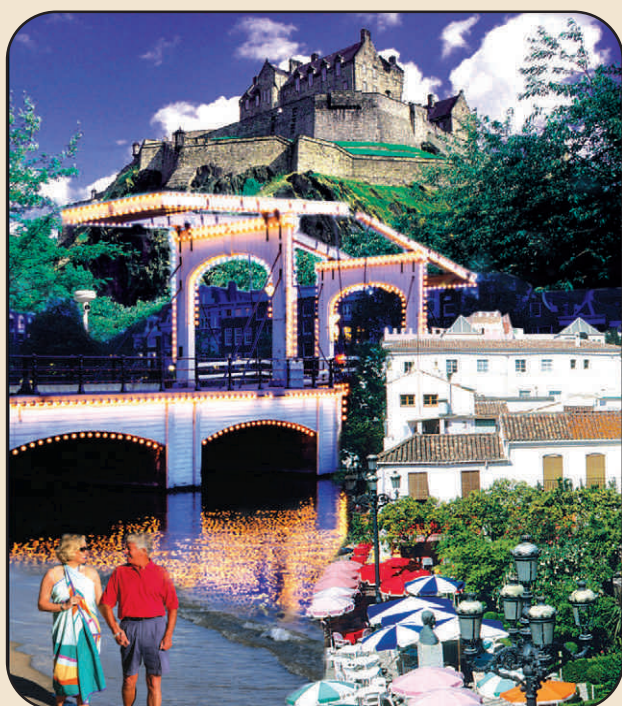
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Forget those year-round sales and go for cashback

ANSWER me this please: How can there be sales on in the High Street 52 weeks a year?

It doesn't make sense. Nothing has a real price any more. There are just sale prices which are really the real price. And if it isn't on sale, it'll be two-for-one. Or buy one, get one free. What's that all about?

If you went to buy, say, a new house, and the estate agent said: "We're doing two for one at the moment," well, you'd smell a rather large rodent wouldn't you. If you're not convinced, picture yourself in a car showroom: "New car sir? You're in luck, buy one get one free." I don't think so.

But in the High Street women fall for it every day of the week. How many times have you heard your woman say: "I'm just nipping into town to do some shopping" and you nearly choke on your Pringles because she hasn't even unpacked the bags from the last trip.

Yet she beams: "Because there's a sale on." Well, there's always a sale on. But still she goes and still she comes back with another load of old toot that you never imagined, not even in

your wildest dreams, that you'd ever need.

There it is, with the till receipt stapled to the carrier bag shouting 'sucker'. Because it was a bargain. In the sales. As if owning one bread-making machine that has never been used isn't bad enough, imagine having two of them.

I don't want to exaggerate, but if the first bread maker has never been out of the box, what is the chance of it wearing out so it needs replacing with the second brand new one? There's a formula to work out probability, but as I'm no mathematician I'd say the chances are slim.

Yet there's your beloved, grinning from ear to ear because she's bought it for you and saved a small fortune in the process. Now the alarm bells are really ringing because if she's bought that to keep you happy, just imagine what she's gone and bought for herself. I've yet to see a woman with more than two feet but the way they buy shoes you'd think they were trying to kit out a centipede. And they need the dress to go with the shoes and the bag to go with the dress. None of it is quite the right size, but by heck it was all a bargain.

It'll be a few weeks before the full extent of

her bargain hunting becomes apparent but you'll stumble across it all in due course. In the bottom of the wardrobe. Under the bed. Don't be surprised to hear the loft ladder being put through its paces after a little trip to the shops.

But when you ask: "What's all this then?" the reply will bear no relation whatsoever to the contents of the bag you've just discovered. Her jaw will tighten like she's got tetanus. She isn't going to say she needed a new this, that or the other. She'll reply: "It was in the sales."

The way this is going, we'll soon have such a bad credit rating from the purchase of surplus to requirements kitchen paraphernalia (don't even mention ice-cream makers) that we won't be able to afford to put food on the table. But we'll be quids in and have enough unwanted clothes and accessories to stock a small boutique.

Think about it next time you see a 'sales' sign and be thankful that us blokes have the sense not to fall for it. We go for cashback.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk



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LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Chris Britcher**, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourswale.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yoursware, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion



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TALK TIME

BRYN PARRY

The organiser of Help for Heroes tells Yourcanterbury about the initiative to improve rehabilitation facilities for injured soldiers



Why did you start Help for Heroes?

Emma and I were privileged enough to meet the wounded at Selly Oak. We walked into a ward of thirty or so soldiers, sitting or lying on their beds, in T shirts and boxers and they were wounded. They were not lying there under white sheets like in the movies, they were on top of the bedclothes and they were missing arms and legs. One man was missing both his legs and his neck was in a brace. He was consoling the son of another soldier who had died in the incident in which he had nearly died; it was profoundly moving. We came home determined to do something, difficult not to want to do something when you meet these people who are so brave, modest and humorous. And so Help for Heroes was born.

The response has been amazing, are you surprised by the scale of public feeling this represents?

No. People are basically good, decent and caring. Sure, we get bound up in our lives, swept along with the current of jobs, families, stress, hassles. We have not become bad; we are just busy. But we have noticed an amazing generosity of spirit coming through Help for Heroes. By stressing that we are non political and non critical, we are enabling people to divorce their lack of support for the wars from their feelings of admiration of those who are fighting them. We can show our support, by donation, for those Servicemen and women who join the Armed Forces to serve their country and are wounded doing their duty. And this has been borne out by the donations flooding in. In nine weeks we have raised nearly £1.5 million! Surely that is unprecedented. The goodwill is infectious, the desire to make this work, to make a difference. People are enjoying catching this virus, this desire to help, to do something really great, to buck the system.

How did Shepherd Neame get involved?

I love the Spitfire advertising which is very much the serviceman's humour so I contacted Shepherd Neame, had a chat and then they flew with it!

YOUR LETTERS

Keeping the Martins' memory alive

After reading the story in last week's Yoursware I went to see the memorial bench which has been erected in memory of Terry and Vera Martin and was very impressed.

I think it is a fitting tribute to a devoted couple brutally murdered in their own home.

Let us hope that no mindless yobs vandalise what is a good way to keep their memory alive.

David Parkin
Sittingbourne

I'm being treated worse than a dog

I hope your readers will remember people like me at Christmas. I am 55 years old, worked as a builder's labourer all my life, paid my tax and national insurance, but now I'm out of work.

All I hear the Government tell us is there is plenty of work to be had, unemployment is falling and they've created tens of thousands of jobs.

Then we find out four out of every five jobs created has gone to immigrants and illegal immigrants are given £4,000 to return home.

Every time I go for a job they look at my age and the job goes to a younger worker, most of the time to a Pole or such like who will work for £5.50 an hour.

The only work I have been offered is agency work and they do not guarantee you full-time work.

Most of the guys I know get approximately three days a week at £6 per hour – about £180 per week.

Poles who are living four to a room can afford that, but I cannot.



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yoursware.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article.

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And remember, www.yoursware.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Faversham, Sittingbourne and Sheppey and our villages.

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In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yoursware before you've grabbed your copy, you never need to miss out.

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My rent is £450 per month with council tax, electric, water, and food on top.

What have I done to deserve the

way I have to live? I have paid my taxes etc, I have not been in trouble with the police, yet as someone who was born in this country of

English parents I am treated worse than a dog.

I thought when Labour got into power they would be for the working class like myself.

Instead all they are interested in is making money for the employers and shareholders.

You only have to look at the background of our local MP Derek Wyatt. I doubt if he even knows what its like to have a manual job and live on a pittance.

There used to be an old saying, "Come the Revolution", when the Tories were in power, well I hope a revolution comes and the English can claim their country back.

Doug Malem
Via email

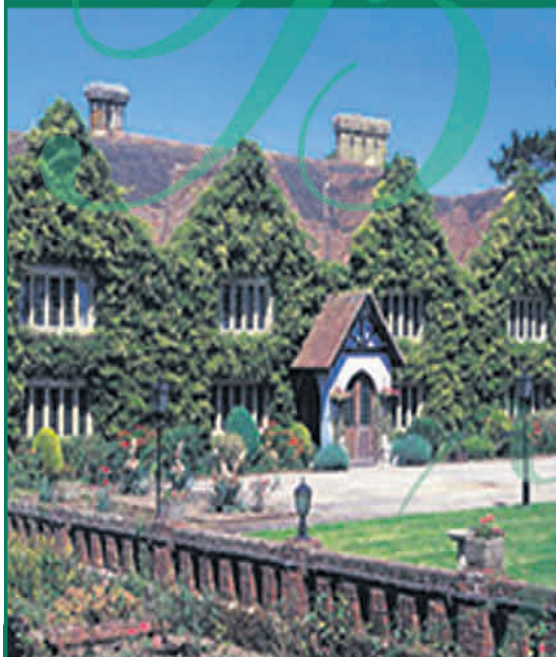


Don't forget – this is a Christian festival

While it was interesting to read about the origin of our festive traditions in last week's paper, I would like to remind your readers that Christmas is a day to celebrate the birth of Christ and while pagan origins of some of the aspects of the holiday time can make for interesting reading, let us not lose sight of what this time of year is all about.

Mary Howard
Via email

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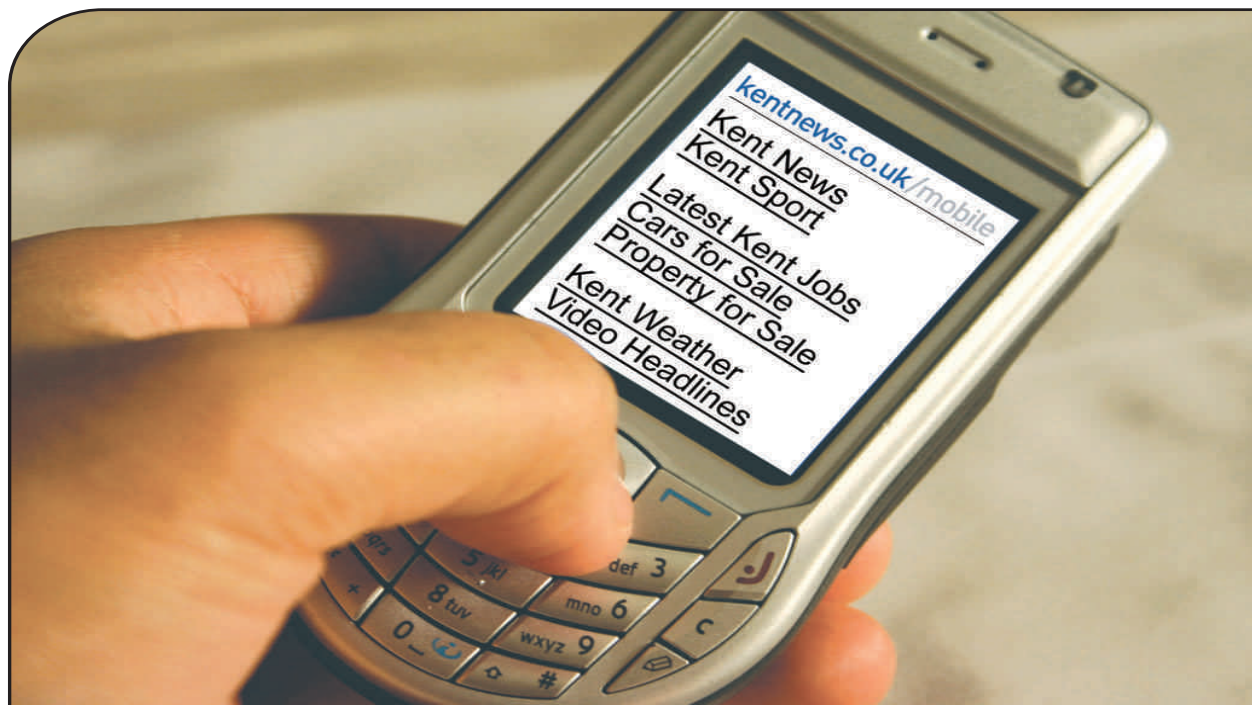
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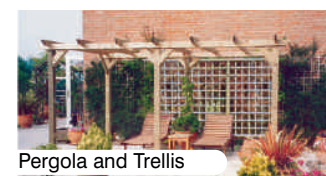


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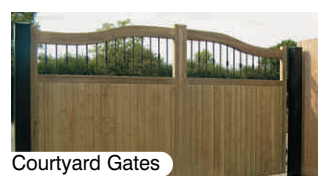


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NEW SEASON

Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

FROM favourite tales to comedy, there will be something for everyone at the Marlowe in 2008.

Yamato, the Drummers of Japan, pictured, will be making themselves heard, as will the Soweto Gospel Choir. Enjoy the majestic grace of Beauty And The Beast On Ice, Northern Ballet

Theatre's Hamlet and the new production by the Richard Alston Dance Company.

The story of Peter And The Wolf will be presented as you've never seen it before, Lazy Town Live is on its way to shake up Canterbury and pirates are waiting to transport you to Treasure Island.

Whether you are yearning to see David Essex in Aspects of Love or tap your

feet to Chas 'n' Dave, there are musical offerings for every taste.

Top TV comedian Dara O'Briain will perform as part of his new tour. Ellen Kent's productions of Madame Butterfly and La Traviata are sure to provide an unforgettable evening of entertainment.

For full details, pick up a brochure or see www.marlowetheatre.com.

COMING UP IN 2008

Horsebridge Arts and Community Centre, Whitstable

LEGENDARY R'n'B act Wilko Johnson will make a welcome return to Whitstable.

The former member of Dr Feelgood and Ian Dury's Blockheads is just one of the highlights of the new season of entertainment. Also in the line-up are the Blue Rhythm Kings, with the authentic sound of 1920s jazz, and Hugh Cornwell with his Stranglers and Beyond Acoustic Tour.

Tony Blake returns with his Archive Film Show and The Richard Rozze Hammond Organ Trio will be showcasing its wide range of jazz influences.

Laugh at the Horsebridge Comedy nights and the Monkeyshine Stand-up Comedy Showcase, where students from the University of Kent hone their craft. Ian Keable, the Accountant Magical Comedian, is sure to be another unmissable act. For details see www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk.

PANTOMIME FUN

Ongoing
Theatres across the county



FOR festive fun and some real Christmas spirit, nothing beats a good pantomime, so here's our round-up of all the great family shows on offer this Christmas:

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury: Aladdin. Starring Shaun Williamson, Stephen Mulhern and Dave Lee. Ends on Sunday, January 20. Tickets £8.50-£21.50. Phone 01227 787787, or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

Orchard Theatre, Dartford: Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs. Starring Wendi Peters. Ends Sunday, January 13. Tickets £13-£21. Phone 01322 220000, or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells: Cinderella. Starring Barney Harwood and Sarah Thomas. Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £10-£19.50. Phone 01892 530613 or 532072, or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone: Sleeping Beauty. With Beau Brady and Kate Sheridan. Ends Sunday, January 6. Tickets from £6.95. Phone 01622 758611, or visit www.hazlitttheatre.co.uk.

Central Theatre, Chatham: Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs. Starring Shane Lynch, Sheila Ferguson and Claire Huckle (left). Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £12.50-£17.50. Phone 01634 338338, or visit www.medway.gov.uk/theatres.

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone: Jack and the Beanstalk. Starring Gabrielle Bradshaw and Claire Coultry. Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £10, concessions available. Phone 0870 4000 890, or visit www.leascliffhall.co.uk.

SWALE LEISURE

All folk are invited to hear singer perform

KENTISH songwriter Bob Kenward will be performing at the Faversham Folk Club next week.

The gig will be held at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street, Faversham, at 8.30pm on Wednesday, January 9. Tickets cost £5 for club members and £6 for non-members.

For more information, visit www.favershamfolkclub.net.

Trio are on the trail of entertaining music

FOR an evening of Americana folk music, catch Happy Trails in Norton on Wednesday, January 9.

The trio has been playing together in various bands for more than 20 years. The gig will be held at the Plough Inn in Lewson Street at 8.30pm.

For details, call the pub on 01795 521348.

To find out more about the band and hear its music, visit www.happytrailsmusic.co.uk.

Enjoy some beautiful landscapes at display

AN EXHIBITION celebrating the landscapes of south east England opens in Sittingbourne on Wednesday.

Bourne An Artist is a collection of paintings by Diane Griffiths featuring beautiful scenes found across the region, from Borden Church and Faversham Oast Houses to views of the East Sussex countryside.

The exhibition will be at the library in Central Avenue and closes on January 30. Admission is free. For details, email Diana@tessa-gallery.co.uk.

Do the timewarp when you visit night club

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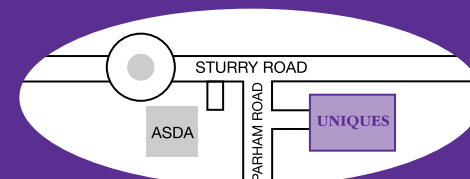
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BEE MOVIE (PG)



Co-written by Jerry Seinfeld, who also voices the lead character, computer-animated adventure Bee Movie is a fitfully amusing romp that peddles many obviously puns and gags. "A perfect report card - all bs!" Seinfeld brings his dry humour to his role while Renee Zellweger, Matthew Broderick and co offer lively support.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (U)



Alvin And The Chipmunks treats its audience like fools, keeping dialogue to a minimum the plot is slow. Kids might giggle at the sight of one chipmunk noisily breaking wind in Dave's face, but laughs are few and far between.

Taking the leap into adulthood

BY BEN FALK

ELFIN-like Natalie Portman is renowned for her intelligence as one of the few young actresses in Hollywood who not only went to college - but to Harvard.

She also has a reputation for being mature beyond her 26 years, an attitude honed growing up on movie sets.

When you meet Portman you immediately see she is articulate and well-spoken, informed and possessed of great beauty.

But blink your eyes and look again and you'll see a kid, a girl in her mid-20s who looks 16, and who peppers her conversation about poverty in Africa and her charity work with dozens of "likes" and "whatevers".

It's refreshing that in the battle-hardened world of Tinseltown, where tweens have business managers, she hasn't forfeited her youth, which is why she loved making new film Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium.

"I thought it was such a wonderful thing to put out into the world," she says of the film. "It's so positive and in such a unique way."

Unique indeed. Natalie is the shop assistant at a magical toy shop run by the impossibly-old Dustin Hoffman, who finally decides to pass on the business, Willy Wonka-style, to her.

"I could really relate to the character too," she admits.

"It was something I could really understand - that transition into adulthood."

Ah yes, the old passage from child actor to bona fide movie star. It's something that Natalie continues to grapple with, ever since making her debut aged 12 as a precocious wannabe hitwoman in Leon.

Her role as Queen Amidala in the second Star Wars trilogy straddled the divide between

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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CHILD-LIKE: Natalie Portman enjoys being young

MR MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM Certificate U

they're saying are party animals are not either.

"In some ways, it's a self-fulfilling prophecy - they follow you less, so they catch your mistakes less."

In other words, she's more than happy to continue without making it into the pages of Heat. Next up is period drama The Other Boleyn Girl, in which she plays doomed queen Anne Boleyn with Scarlett Johansson as her sister.

She's also currently shooting a remake of the Danish hit Brothers, alongside alleged former beau Gyllenhaal.

Prestigious, arty projects for sure, but to float Natalie's boat it's got to be something she is passionate about.

youth and grown-up, but by semi-abandoning films and focusing on her studies, it seemed for a while that she wasn't interested in being a woman in Hollywood.

She has a degree in psychology, speaks fluent Hebrew and her work has appeared in several scientific journals. Nonetheless, she now says it would be tough to give up acting.

Portman doesn't discuss who's she dating or dated, but names like Jake Gyllenhaal, Hayden Christensen and Gael Garcia Bernal have all come up.

"From a young age, my parents taught me not to talk about private stuff because as soon as you start putting it out there, it's like fair game," she says.

But as for why she hasn't fallen into the trap of Britney and co, she adds: "I think the press branded me as one thing."

"They branded me as the good kid. But none of us are all good or all bad. The kids who

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No17

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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Worrying troubled man has rest (10)
6 Blackleg seen initially at advice centre (4)
9 Perfect pattern (5)
10 Strip of peat removed (4)
11 Worn block? (4)
13 Unable to include odd-one-out that is not special (15)
14 Another Tory gain? It's a twist! (8)
16 Go and join up again (6)
18 Leave some of the trade parts (6)
19 Preparation for a form of surgery (8)
22 Scottish tourist attraction that possibly has never been seen (4,4,7)
24 Foundation for a vegetable (4)
25 Turn at home to enter (2,2)
26 After having breather, I obtained loincloth (5)
27 So repeatedly mediocre (2-2)
28 Used another worker (6-4)

DOWN

- 1 Food unhesitatingly produced in Germany (7)
2 Didn't start game on hilltop (5)
3 Looking after number one on holiday? (4-8)
4 Previously encountered, say, figure of speech (8)
5 One tucking in may tuck it in (6)
7 Principal officiant Bert clean away (9)
8 Mike hidden on stand is cause of anger (7)
12 Cover vase that had gone first when all mixed together (12)
15 Criticise airman with debts who is grasping (9)
17 Order nothing from unit of special service brigade (8)
18 Lady aggravated old sore (7)
20 Prepared a hot meal? (7)
21 A prop on the beach (6)
23 Simpleton galloped round islands (5)

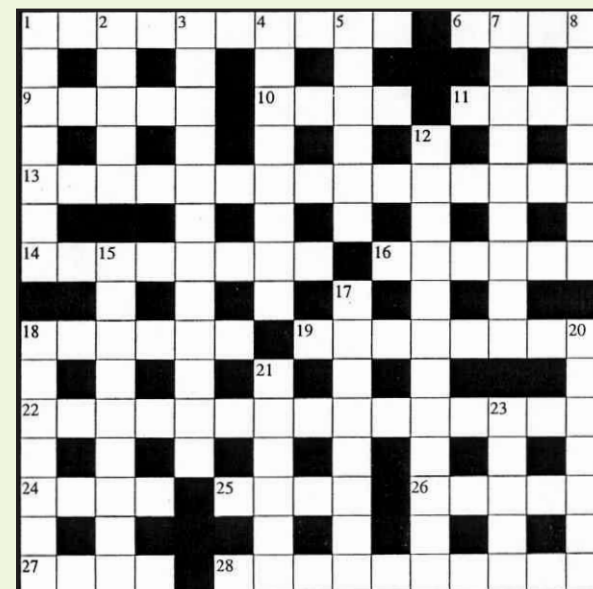
QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Green ____ (liqueur) (10)
6 Season's yield (4)
9 Prohibited (5)
10 Whitish (4)
11 Eyot (4)
13 Make an indiscretion (3,4,4,2,2)
14 Squirmed (8)
16 Large gun (6)
18 Fall asleep (3,3)
19 Immaculate (8)
22 Capable of being switched (15)
24 Forest plant (4)
25 Locality (4)
26 Inn (5)
27 Tier (anag.) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Dupe (4-3)
2 Monastic head (5)
3 Road (12)
4 One selling overseas (8)
5 Pink fish (6)
7 Ringing sound (9)
8 Town in Lancashire (7)
12 Win the most applause (5,3,4)
15 Restless (9)
17 Southern European (8)
18 Newspaper worker (7)
20 Furtiveness (7)
21 Town in northern Scotland (6)
23 Tribe (anag.) (5)



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SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Charthouse 6 Crop 9 Taboo 10 Pale 11 Isle 13 Put your foot in it 14 Wrangled 16 Cannon 18 Pop off 19 Spodess 22 Interchangeable 24 Tree 25 Area 26 Hotel 27 Rite 28 Wordsworth. **DOWN:** 1 Cat's-paw 2 Abbot 3 Thoroughfare 4 Exporter Labrador 6 Fittilly 7 Clout 9 Fred 14 Toolmaker 15 Chitchat 16 Alfresco 17 Kirk 19 Addenda 20 Acumen 21 Wait up 23 Say-so.

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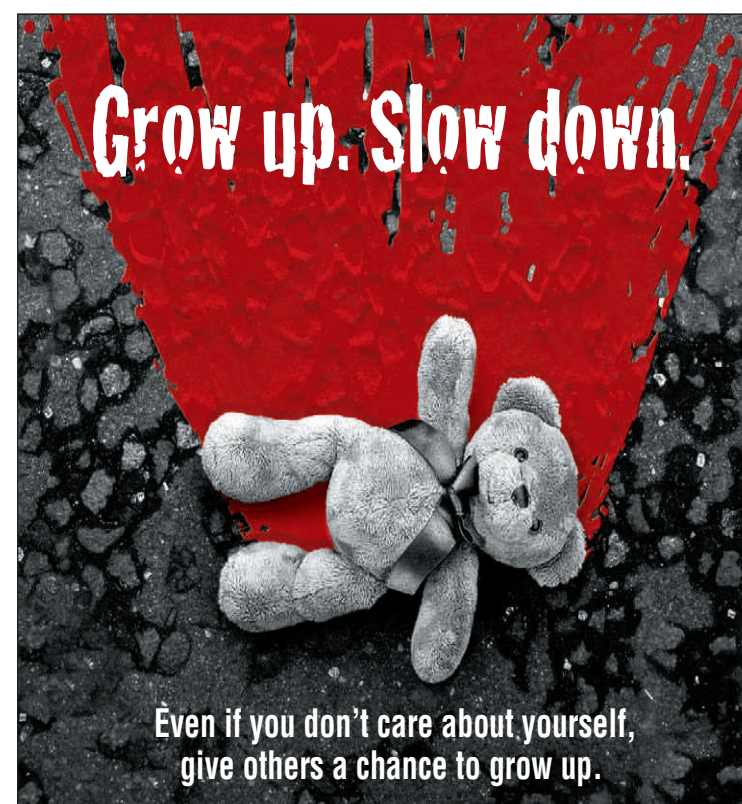
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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

TRUST your instincts with regard to an unusual money-making venture. Your New Year resolution must be to make more use of your management skills and to push yourself forward in situations where you would prefer to take a back seat. Spending more time with friends will prove relaxing during the early part of 2008.



TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

YOUR expertise and experience makes you a desirable candidate for romance. A friend could set you up on a blind date. One thing is for sure: the chemistry between you will be fizzing. You'll be spending money as fast as it comes. While all of this financial activity makes you nervous, these expenditures are necessary to fuel future ventures.



LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

A BRILLIANT idea for conserving resources is worth following. Assuming a prominent position at work could also put extra money in your pocket, but it will involve added responsibility. Your love life will sizzle with excitement for the next month. If you've already got a partner, the two of you could be blessed with a child.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

A FLIRTATIOUS conversation puts a spring in your step over the New Year celebrations. A group effort highlights your speaking or writing ability and you may be asked to act as the team's representative. More money for luxuries could come pouring in between now and late January. Take this opportunity to spoil yourself.



PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

YOUR dynamism could attract the attention of an older intellectual. This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. The two of you make an odd but compelling pair. Your creative abilities are the secret to your career success in early 2008. Your New Year resolution should be to launch a home improvement project before early March.



GEMINI (May 22 - Jun 22)

YOU could get an exciting bonus as thanks for a job well done. Cutting the household budget will give you greater financial security. It's better to have reserves in the bank than luxuries in your living space. Your love life undergoes a blissful honeymoon. Your New Year resolution must be to take more exercise.



VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

A BUSINESS or romantic partner's unusual outlook gives you an idea for a creative project. This year brings an opportunity to work on a more prominent level and you will love to be acknowledged for your expertise. Spending more time at home gives you a wonderful feeling of security. Prepare for your career to take flight.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21)

IDEAS for making your budget stretch farther will give you more freedom. Your star is on the rise so don't be surprised if you're given a raise or praise in recognition of your many and varied talents. If you're not happy in your current job, your New Year resolution should be to look around for a new position with more responsibility.



ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

THIS year looks potential packed. You know just how to get the best out of your team. One of your New Year resolutions must be to improve your management skills. Your schedule will be very full between now and early March. Answering phone calls, text messages, and emails will demand much of your attention.



CANCER (Jun 23 - Jul 23)

THE chance to study an unusual subject could come via a business or romantic partner. The more you know, the more desirable you get on the job market. Falling in love with someone who is much older or younger is a distinct possibility this week. Promise yourself you will make the most of the opportunities coming your way in 2008.



LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

A CHANCE to work from home could triple your productivity. Take the helm of a domestic matter this week. Trust your instincts, particularly with regard to assigning responsibilities to relatives and roommates. Your New Year resolution must be not to accept second best from those around you.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20)

TWO unrelated events could result in an exciting breakthrough. Teaming up with a respected expert could help you turn this brainstorm into a profitable business. Keep a love affair under wraps or meddling mischief makers will spoil the fun. Your New Year resolution should be to embark on an intense exercise regimen.

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EASY

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HARD

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8	5							
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							6	2
7		5		8	2			
	9		6					
2			5	1				

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

Last week's solutions

EASY

4	1	5	6	3	8	7	9	2
8	3	9	7	2	5	1	6	4
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9	8	1	5	6	3	2	4	7
5	4	3	2	8	7	9	1	6
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6	7	4	9	1	2	3	8	5

HARD

2	8	9	6	4	3	7	5	1
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6	2	4	9	1	5	8	7	3
5	7	1	3	8	4	6	2	9
9	3	8	2	6	7	1	4	5
4	9	5	8	7	2	3	1	6
3	1	2	5	9	6	4	8	7
8	6	7	4	3	1	5	9	2

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PICK OF THE WEEK

BBC one

THURSDAY: DIE HARD WITH A VENGEANCE (10.35pm): Bruce Willis teams up with Samuel L. Jackson in the best of the Die Hard films. Fast paced action and laughs.

FRIDAY: JAM & JERUSALEM (8.30pm): Jennifer Saunders' star-studded gentle comedy sees Tash prepare for an assault on the Glastonbury Festival – without a ticket.

BBC TWO

THURSDAY: LEAD BALLOON (9.30pm): Jack Dee stars in the last of an excellent series with a call from Hollywood gives Rick something to think about.

FRIDAY: CULTURE SHOW SPECIAL – SIGUR ROS (11.35pm): Another chance to catch the Icelandic band and learn the stories behind their hypnotic tunes.

itv

THURSDAY: MIDSUMMER MURDERS (3pm): John Nettles' Barnaby investigates the murder of a wealthy landowner's wife in the village where they drop like flies.

FRIDAY: THE FUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET (8pm): Matthew Kelly talks to stars of Coronation Street and looks back at some of their favourite scenes.

4

THURSDAY: THE KIDNAPPING OF ELIZABETH SMART (10pm): Documentary on the 14-year-old kidnapped for nine months from Salt Lake City and discovered with a man who claimed to be the Messiah.

FRIDAY: GREATEST COMEDY CATCHPHRASES (9pm): Three hour romp through the nation's favourite comedy quips.

five

THURSDAY: GET CARTER (10pm): Michael Caine stars in the classic gangster thriller from 1971.

FRIDAY: WORLD'S STRONGEST MAN (8pm): Pure brute force on show in the final of the contest in Anaheim, California. Presented by Martin Bayfield.

Has the time come to evict reality TV?

■ BY CHRIS THOMSON

IT SEEMS like a lifetime ago, but it was a mere 12 months since Jade Goody's fragile career as a celebrity dimwit exploded amid the racism row of Celebrity Big Brother.

Along with the equally dumb Jo O'Meara (ex-S Club 7) and Danielle Lloyd (ex-Miss Great Britain), their bullying of Bollywood's Shilpa Shetty sparked headlines worldwide.

And while Channel 4 bosses initially rubbed their hands with glee at the increase in viewing figures, they quickly found those same hands holding their heads in sorrow as sponsors jumped ship and the annual New Year goose decided it was not going to lay its golden egg in 2008.

But with Celebrity Big Brother 2008 pulled altogether in the wake of the media furore which followed last year's series, Channel 4 have opted to see in the New Year with yet another twist on its money-making reality theme. Enter Celebrity Hijack.

The house is still there. The housemates will be thrown in. A cash pot of £50,000 on offer. But rather than the all-singing, all-dancing version going out on prime time, Celebrity Hijack will be a more muted affair.

While the opening show will be on tomorrow on Channel 4, it will then become the property of the channel's digital sister station E4.

A sign TV bosses are no longer convinced of the clout the Big Brother concept still packs? Or simply testing the water for yet another mainstream assault on reality TV addicts? As ever, the power will lie with the viewer...after all, you decide whether to watch it or not.

In a nutshell, Celebrity Hijack will drop into



WATCHING THEM: It was just a year ago that Jade Goody and friends shocked the world with their harsh treatment of Shilpa Shetty on Celebrity Big Brother

the house 'gifted' young individuals, all aged between 18 and 21 (gifted with intelligence or the ability to show-off, remains, as yet, unclear). Then a host of celebrities will take turns to be Big Brother, setting tasks and causing, so the details of the show boast, mischief with the inmates. They will even be let loose in the behind-the-mirrors camera runs. A nation can hardly wait.

Dermot O'Leary – fresh from his underwhelming role as X Factor host – will host the live opening show. The series will be his Big Brother swansong after confirming he is to present Big Brother's Little Brother no more.

In truth, he was once a breath of fresh air – but as the housemates for the main show became thicker and thicker in each passing series, so his light dimmed. The words 'sow' and 'silk ear' spring to mind.

His nightly 7.30pm E4 slot for the new show will allow him one last chance to try and recapture past glories before he departs.

But at stake is something far more important: the public's view on reality TV.

Surely now, after eight years of it, we have had enough?

The crowning of X Factor winner Leon, and Big Brother's, er, can't even remember his name, underlined once and for all that our apparently endless appetite for the format is surely over. They take 'forgettable' to a whole new stratosphere. We have gorged at its table, been violently sick, and now never want to see another one again.

It's cheap and cheerful telly – no doubt. And the money generated by callers having their say has long since injected huge sums into the bottom line of the TV companies involved. But with each show bringing with it new controversies over phone votes, the trust of the viewer is diminishing rapidly. Not to mention the fact the talent these shows are unearthing really is worthy of picking up a dictionary and checking the true definition of the word.

In truth, hopes of relegating such shows to digital channels – such as the case with Celebrity Hijack – will not make financial sense; they rely too much on as wide an audience as possible in the hope a decent fraction pick up the phone.

Perhaps it will be genuine viewer power – via the use of the off switch – which will evict them all from our schedules.



CELEBRITY HIJACK

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Ski resort puts families first

■ BY HANNAH STEPHENSON

IT WAS a chilling thought taking my two children on their first skiing trip.

If just one of them didn't take kindly to the slopes I could face a week of tobogganing, ice-skating or languishing in over-priced mountain cafes trying to keep a little one entertained, while waiting for the others to come down the mountain.

However, as both my husband and I are keen skiers, we agreed to tread on thin ice for our first family ski-trip to Flaine, in the northern French Alps between Geneva and Chamonix.

It forms the centre of the spectacular Grand Massif, one of the largest linked ski areas in France, offering 265km of snowsports over 133 runs, with 78 ski lifts connecting Flaine with the neighbouring resorts of Samoens, Les Carroz d'Araches, Morillon and Sixt Fer a Cheval.

At 1,600m, Flaine's not quite as high as other French resorts, such as La Plagne or Courchevel 1850, but because it lies within a dramatic bowl, the snow remains longer than at other locations.

With 52 red runs, 52 blues, 15 greens and 14 blacks, there's enough skiing for all abilities, but the resort comes recommended as a child-friendly destination, with plenty of nursery slopes to keep the youngsters amused.

Flaine centre, it has to be said, is more concrete than picture postcard, having been purpose-built in the 1960s. But my seven and



LASTING: Being located in a bowl means the snow lasts for longer in the ski resort of Flaine

eight-year-old children didn't notice the architecture when they were having fun in the snow – and there was plenty of it.

We needn't have worried about them taking to the sport. Once we had hired the boots and skis the children couldn't wait to have a go, and as they could ski virtually from the door of

our hotel, we didn't need to walk far for the fun to begin.

There are several free lifts at the base of the resort, which accommodate two green runs ideal for beginners, so we didn't buy a ski pass for our children on the first day just in case they didn't like it.

But after an afternoon finding their snow legs, they were hooked and could soon tackle the chairlift with an adult.

Ski school is a must for young beginners – to learn the basics of snow-ploughing, distribution of weight on the skis and, most importantly, how to stop. They also make new friends in the lessons and it gives parents time to ski on their own.

However, during peak season ski school can be crowded, so we organised a couple of private lessons. A two-hour lesson for two children in Flaine with ESF cost 69 Euros (about £49) and was worth it – they progress quicker and have individual attention which can make it safer.

I met several families during my stay who had driven to Flaine, taking the Dover-Calais ferry and then sharing the eight-hour drive.

They chose to drive partly because it's cheaper than a package and partly because they were self-catering and could cram provisions for the week in the car.

The last thing I want to do at the end of a day on the slopes is cook, so we opted for a package holiday with Crystal at the Club Hotel Totem, where you can ski to the door.

For a three-star hotel, the food was fabulous. The menu changed daily and we were offered choices ranging from sea bass and hake, to venison, roast lamb and vegetarian stir fries.

FACT FILE:

Time difference	UK + one hour
Currency	Euros approx 1.4 to £1
Capital	Paris
Region airport	64.1 million
Language	French
Religion	Roman Catholic
Climate	Alpine in mountain regions

Holiday details

Hannah Stephenson travelled courtesy of Crystal Ski, which offers seven nights' half-board plus afternoon tea, coffee and cake and free wine or soft drinks with evening meals at Club Hotel Le Totem from £1,248 for a family of four (two adults, two children) this winter, including return flights ex-Gatwick and transfers.

Adult prices begin at £479, with special rates for children (2-11), and up to three free child places per family. Regional departures from 10 UK airports from £10. Supplement ex-Manchester is £26 and ex-Glasgow £39. Free ski and boot hire for one child for each adult pre-booking skis and boots. Six days ski/board hire costs £91 per child, £124 per adult. Lift passes £147 per adult, £107 per child, free passes for under-fives. Child care at Club Hotel Le Totem can be pre-booked. Crystal reservations: 0870 402 0293 or online at www.crystalfamilies.co.uk.



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Brush up Excel	24/01/08 at 10am	£40
Online Chat & Commun.	31/01/08 at 9.30am	£20
ECDL Express	09/02/08 at 10am	£75
Brush up Powerpoint	14/02/08 at 10am	£40
C. for Today - E Citizen	26/02/08 at 10am	£180
Using & Downloading S.	06/03/08 at 9.30am	£20
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BIRTHS

ALLERHEAD
Amira Lily Rose born 5th December 2007 weighing 9lb 4oz daughter to Marvin Allerhead and Anita Zadeh.

BENSON
Neil and Jennifer of Canterbury are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Samuel Neil, on 9th December 2007. A new baby brother for Amelia.

BROWN
Paul and Debbie are proud to announce the arrival of their son Joshua Richard Brown. Born in Darent Valley Hospital on twenty first November 2007.

CHITTY
Peter and Hayley of Margate celebrate the birth of their son Dominic James on 11th December

2007. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

COE
Tracy WHALE and Stephen COE of Chatham celebrate the birth of their son George Christopher Martin COE on 11th December 2007.

CZUCZMAN
To Cherry and Mat of Canterbury, a beautiful daughter, Cara Cherry, born on 18th December 2007 weighing 6lb 4oz.

HALL
Sam and Claire of Whitstable are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Annabelle Elizabeth, on 6th December 2007. A new sister for Ben and James.

HAWKETT
Brooke Fiona Samantha Hawkett born on

13th December 2007, weighing 6lb 13oz. Daughter to Dave Hawkett and Tracy Hodgkiss in Chatham.

HESELDEN
Joseph Robert Heselden born at home on the 10th December 2007, weighing 6lb 9oz. Son to Robert and Sue Heselden in Marden.

MAYATT
Logan Mathew Mayatt born on 12th December 2007, weighing 10lb 7oz. Son to Robert Mayatt and Sharon Hill in Maidstone.

PERRY
Nikki and Richard of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Benjamin Ian, on 14th December 2007.

PYWELL
Stuart and Sally of Whitstable are delighted to

announce the birth of their daughter, Lara Olivia Pywell, on 8th December 2007. A new baby sister for Henry, Sarah, Matthew, Jonathan and Steven.

RUSDHARRY
Rajni-Devi Parvati Rusdharry born on 7th December 2007, weighing 4lb 2oz. Daughter to Subodh and Ausha-Devi Rusdharry in Maidstone.

TRINDALL
Paul and Michaela of Broadstairs celebrate the birth of their son Hudson John Alfred on 15th December 2007. Brother to Andreas, Daniel, Maxine, Louisa and Craig.

DEATHS
CALVER
Ronald Albert Calver (Ron), loving father,

grandfather and great grandfather passed away after a short illness on 20th December 2007, aged 83. Funeral service to be held on Thursday 10th January 2008 at 1.15pm in Vinters Park Crematorium. Enquiries to Michael Lawrence 01622 661678.

CHARLTON
Patricia Emily Charlton of Chestfield passed away peacefully on 18th December 2007. Wife of Dennis. Funeral to be held at Barham Crematorium on Monday 7th January 2008 at 11.20am. Family flowers only.

CHRISTIE
Betty (Bettina Astrid) Christie of Ash passed away peacefully on 18th December 2007. In memory of a loving mum and grandmother.

Funeral to be held at Barham Crematorium on 4th January at 10am. Family flowers only but if desired donations to Cancer Research c/o Dilnot Smith Funeral Directors, Woodnesborough.

HOPPERTON
Basil Hopperton of Sissinghurst, died at home on 18th December 2007 after a short illness, aged 80. All enquiries to Sills and Co of Cranbrook.

LOUGHLIN
Bernard of Sevenoaks passed away after a short illness in Kent and Sussex Hospital on 18th December 2007. Will be sadly missed by his sons, daughters in law and grand-daughter. Enquiries to

F Chappell, Sevenoaks.

LUKE
Ellen Christina Luke (nee Beecham) of Broad Oak, Canterbury passed away after a long illness on 17th December 2007. A loving mum, sister and grandma who will be so sadly missed. Many thanks to the District Nurses from Canterbury Health Centre for their care and attention. The funeral will take place at Barham Crematorium on Friday 4th January 2008 at 2pm and afterwards at Sturry Church for a blessing to her life. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Cancer Research c/o Co-Operative Funeral Services, Sturry Road, Canterbury.

OAKES
Charles died peacefully on 19th December 2007 aged 95 years. Will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Donations for Hospice in the Weald via Groombridges, Tonbridge

SILVESTER
Elizabeth Silvester of Gravesend, passed away peacefully after a long illness on 15th December 2007 aged 71 will be sadly missed by her everloving Husband, Children, Grandchildren and all her family.

WELLER
Elsie Beatrice Hudson Weller (nee Clark) of Dover passed peacefully away on 12th December 2007, in her 96th year.



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PROPERTY NEWS

Protect yourself against burglars

WHILE you splash out on gifts for loved ones this year, security experts are warning householders to take extra care to prevent falling victim to burglars.

Although such crimes are few and far between, Home Office statistics show Kent is one of the UK's top 10 regions most likely to be affected by burglary – with research suggesting you're more likely to be burgled just after Christmas.

Jill Willis, market development manager at Norwich Union Insurance, said: "Christmas is a time to relax and catch up with friends and relatives, but the threat of burglary during this period can't be ignored.

"Our research shows that three quarters of British people are not taking any extra care to protect their homes and property. By taking a few simple steps, homeowners can help to avoid the trauma burglaries cause."

Key recommendations include keeping presents out of view from opportunist thieves, asking trusted neighbours to keep an eye on your property, using timer switches for lights, and not forgetting to double-check all windows and doors before you leave the house.

Get on the ladder by buying with a buddy

MAKING those first steps onto the property ladder can be a tricky business, especially with house price to income ratios now higher than ever.

One solution is to join forces with a friend and pool your resources to buy a property together and share the monthly outgoings.

The concept of 'buying with a buddy' is becoming increasingly common and websites have sprung up to help would-be home owners pair up with like-minded individuals.

Caron Hutchins, sales manager for Redrow Homes (Eastern), says: "A new home is great for first time buyers as it comes with a 10-year Buildmark warranty and requires little or no maintenance and none of the renovation or repair that goes with buying a run-down terrace. New homes also tend to be more energy efficient, which makes for fewer arguments over the heating bills."



BUILD ON IT: The coming year looks set to be the perfect time to sell your land, as developers aim to meet the targets for affordable, eco-friendly and family homes

Land yourself a good deal on your open space

■ BY CHRIS THOMSON

THE new home market is set for an upturn next year – with eco-friendly homes playing a key role in driving the sector upwards, according to property experts.

And the role of housing associations in snapping up land to build much-needed affordable housing in the county is set to provide more choice for those looking to snap up a new-build property.

This year has seen prices for new homes continue to rise and the market remained buoyant through the summer before experiencing a slow down towards the end of the year.

On the supply side, due to a dwindling stock of good brownfield sites available for building, there has continued to be fierce competition

between developers over sites, which in turn means land prices have stayed strong.

According to chiefs at RPC Land and New Homes, the situation should shift during 2008.

Managing director, Peter Randall, said: "This year the market has been quite tough for developers, but they are still very hungry for land and desperate to purchase good sites and that will continue into 2008 and beyond.

"This year has seen the new homes market start well and then slow down. I expect that to change around in 2008, with perhaps a slow start followed by an upturn later in the year.

I believe next year we will see more housing associations involved with developments in Kent to meet affordable housing numbers and

I think eco-friendly developments will also become more common.

"There is also a growing trend in some part of the county for planners to look for more family housing, reversing the trend over the past few years for higher density developments such as flats. I would expect developers to follow suit and look to provide more two, three and four-bedroom properties.

"With competition still strong over sites for development, land prices look set to be maintained. This, coupled with the axing of tax exemptions on empty commercial premises, means 2008 could be a wise time to cash in on land for development. It's best to talk to an expert to get the best design for a plot."

RPC Land has offices at Dartford, Chatham, Maidstone, Ashford, Tonbridge and Haywards Heath.

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TANKERTON **£395,000**

WHITSTABLE OFFICE **FWP02065**

- 4 Bed detached property including annex
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- 3 Bedroom detached bungalow
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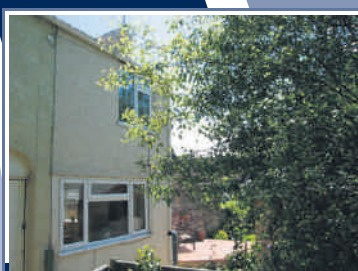
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FAVERSHAM PRICE RANGE: £170,000 - £180,000
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• Sought After Town Centre Location
• 2 Receptions, Bathroom, Kitchen, No Chain
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• Extended 3 Bedroom Home Or Investment
• 3 Receptions, Off Road Parking
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BOUGHTON PRICE RANGE: £165,000 - £175,000
• Village Location, 2 Bedrooms
• Through Lounge/Diner, Kitchen
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CANTERBURY PRICE RANGE: £160,000-£180,000
• 2 Bedroom End Of Terrace Home
• 17' Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Rear Garden
• Garage En Bloc, Well Placed For UKC
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HERNE BAY PRICE RANGE: £160,000 - £165,000
• Extended 1930's Semi
• 2 Reception Room, Kitchen/Diner
• Central Location, Views From Rear
Herne Bay Office 0845 3709 712



HERSDEN £159,950
• 3/4 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
• Kitchen, 23' Lounge/Diner, Loft Room
• Double Glazing, Central Heating, No Chain
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HERNE BAY £149,995
• 2 Double Bedrooms, Balcony
• Well Presented
• Allocated Parking, Central Location
Herne Bay Office 0845 3709 712



OSPRINGE £147,500
• Well Presented Two Bedroom Maisonette
• Private Cul De Sac. Through Lounge/Diner
• Kitchen, Bathroom, Garden. No Chain
Faversham Office 0845 3709 712



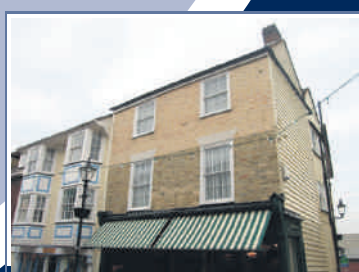
FAVERSHAM PRICE RANGE: £145,000-£155,000
• Retirement Apartment In A Central Location
• Lounge/Diner, Bedroom, Kitchen & Bathroom
• Communal Gardens, Lounge & Lift, No Chain
Faversham Office 0845 3709 712



FAVERSHAM £145,000
• One Bedroom Victorian Cottage
• Semi Rural Location, Approx 100' Garden
• Conservatory, Available With No Chain
Faversham Office 0845 3709 712



AYLESHAM PRICE RANGE: £140,000-£160,000
• Extended 3 Bedroom End Of Terrace Home
• Kitchen, Double Glazing, Central Heating
• Village Location, No Onward Chain
Canterbury Office 0845 3709 712



FAVERSHAM £127,500
• One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
• In Town Centre Location
• Available With No Chain
Faversham Office 0845 3709 712



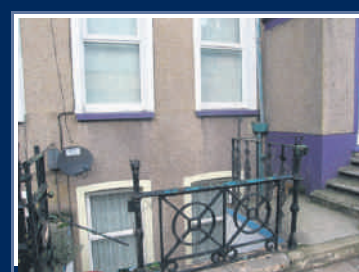
HERNE BAY PRICE RANGE: £135,000 - £145,000
• 2 Bedroom Garden Flat
• Private Front Door
• Central Location
Herne Bay Office 0845 3709 712



AYLESHAM PRICE RANGE: £125,000-£140,000
• 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace Home
• Ideal First Time Buy, Cosy Atmosphere
• Parking, Courtyard Garden, No Chain
Canterbury Office 0845 3709 712



ST STEPHEN'S PRICE RANGE: £115,000-125,000
• Ground Floor 1 Bedroom Apartment
• Double Glazing, Convenient Location
• No Onward Chain
Canterbury Office 0845 3709 712



HERNE BAY PRICE RANGE: £105,000-£120,000
• 1 Bedroom Garden Flat
• Garden In Excess Of 40'
• Central Location With Private Front Door
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MINSTER ON SEA PRICE RANGE: £475,000-£525,000

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- Accommodation Over 4 Levels
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SITTINGBOURNE PRICE RANGE: £349,995-£359,995

- Victorian Double Fronted 4 Bed Detached
- Two Receptions, Cellar, Garage & Driveway
- Popular Location & Offered With No Chain

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SHEERNESS PRICE RANGE: £310,000-£350,000

- 3 Bedrooms, 4 Floors
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SITTINGBOURNE PRICE RANGE: £300,000-£319,995

- Imposing & Spacious Detached Home
- Six Bedrooms With Three En-Suites
- Sonora Fields Development & No Chain

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SHEERNESS £290,000

- Character Property On 4 Levels
- Workshop 34'4 X 21'5 Wide
- Rear Garden Approx 130' Long x 56' Wide

Sheerness Office 0845 3709 711



SITTINGBOURNE £282,000

- 4 Bedroom Detached, Cul-De-Sac Location
- Two Receptions & Well Maintained Garden
- Downstairs Cloakroom, Tandem Garage

Sittingbourne Office 0845 3709 711



HALFWAY £242,500

- 3 Bedroom Detached Chalet Bungalow
- Luxury Kitchen & Bathroom, 24' Lounge
- Dining Area. Approx 50' x 70' Rear Garden

Sheerness Office 0845 3709 711



SHEERNESS PRICE RANGE: £185,000-£200,000

- 3 Bedrooms, No Forward Chain
- 19' Lounge/Diner. Garage & Driveway
- Double Glazing & Gas Fired Heating

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LOWER HALSTOW £159,995

- 2 Bedroom Mid Terraced Character Cottage
- Refurbished, Separate Upstairs Bathroom
- Popular Prime Village Location

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SITTINGBOURNE £149,995

- 1930's Bay Windowed 2 Bedroom Terrace
- Approx 100ft Garden, Kitchen & Bathroom
- Sought After Location & Realistically Priced

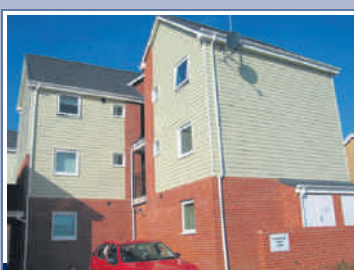
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SITTINGBOURNE £144,995

- 2 Bedroom Terraced Property, Garage
- Popular Grove Park Development
- Ideal First Purchase!

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SITTINGBOURNE £139,995

- Modern Two Bedroom Duplex Apartment
- Allocated Parking & No Forward Chain
- Sought After Development & Ideal First Purchase

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SITTINGBOURNE £139,995

- Modern Two Bedroom Duplex Apartment
- Allocated Parking, No Forward Chain
- Sought After Development

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SHEERNESS £124,500

- 2 Bedroom Property With 2 Receptions
- Recently Fitted Ground Floor Bathroom
- Rear Courtyard Garden, Workshop. No Chain

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Local offices:
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SHEERNESS £112,000

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- Entry Phone System, 18'9 x 12'2 Lounge

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NEWINGTON £109,000

- One Bedroom First Floor Maisonette
- Ideal First Purchase Or Investment
- Popular Village Location & Parking

Sittingbourne Office 0845 3709 711



EAST LANE £105,500

- 2/3 Bedroom End Of Terrace House
- Double Glazing, Gas Heating
- No Forward Chain

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Sited on Dengrove Park, Broad Oak for the over 50's. 2 miles from Canterbury City Centre on local bus route.

2 fitted double bedrooms, 1 ensuite with shower, wc and washbasin. Cloakroom with wc and washbasin and large fitted cupboard. Large airing cupboard housing Valliant Combi Gas Boiler in hallway. Spacious deluxe kitchen with built in oven and grill and separate hob. Space for fridge freezer. Utility room with space for washing machine and tumble dryer, cupboards over worktop. Large L shape lounge / dining room with wall lights and fire surround.

Easy to manage small open plan garden, laid to lawn with shrubs and flower beds.

Price to include dishwasher, carpets, curtains, blinds, greenhouse and shed.

All main services with gas central heating.

£140,000 No chain 07754 534558 or 01227 713426

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CENTRAL, HERNE BAY £105,000

Handy, central location 1 bedroom ground floor flat. No forward chain. Ideal for first time buyer or investor. Part double glazed.



STUDD HILL, HERNE BAY £150,000

Two bedroom detached bungalow of light construction. Situated on Studd Hill with limited sea views, within 2 minutes walk of the sea. Benefits from double glazing and central heating.



STUDD HILL, HERNE BAY £169,995

Vacant modern 2 bedroom detached bungalow located on the extreme west side of town on a Private Estate. Features night storage heating and double glazing.



HERNE, HERNE BAY £199,950

Vacant detached three bedroom bungalow located on the east side of town close to the village of Herne. Within easy reach of playing fields and access to a bus route. Features gas fired central. Requires modernising.

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REF: 0132DSP - BENITACHELL, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 189,633 € (APPROX £135.640)

Brand new development of apartments offering two or three bedrooms. These apartments offer spectacular views and are due for completion in February 2008.



REF: 0137DSP - BENITACHELL, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 350,415 € (APPROX £250.640)

Two or three bedroom villas available for off plan development. Many styles and plots available. All plots offer excellent sea views and built within 18 months of purchase.



REF: 0138DSP - BENITACHELL, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 328,000 € (APPROX £234.610)

Two or three bedroom villas available for off plan development. Many styles and plots available. All plots offer excellent sea views and built within 18 months of purchase.



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REF: 0204DSP - JALON, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 235,000 € (APPROX £168.090)

Brand new townhouses offering three bedrooms, private parking, private terraces and communal pool. Development is due for completion End of February 2008.



REF: 0205DSP, GATA DE GORGOS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 451,000 € (APPROX £322.590)

Brand new development of villas offering three bedrooms, communal swimming pool, great location and picturesque views. All properties to be completed by Jan 09.



REF: 0206DSP, GATA DE GORGOS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 361,000 € (APPROX £258.210)

Brand new development of villas offering three bedrooms, communal swimming pool, great location and picturesque views. All properties to be completed by Jan 09.



REF: 0155DSP, ALTEA, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 361,500 € (APPROX £258.570)

Brand new development of two and three bedroom townhouses offering fantastic views and a great location. This development is now key ready!



REF: 0159DSP, ALTEA HILLS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 262,400 € (APPROX £187.687)

Luxurious residential estate offering two and three bedroom apartments with spectacular views of the Mediterranean coast line. This development is now key ready!



REF: 0158DSP, ALTEA HILLS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 262,400 € (APPROX £187.687)

Luxurious residential estate offering two and three bedroom apartments with spectacular views of the Mediterranean coast line. This development is now key ready!

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Overseas
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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

MIDI MPVs

VAUXHALL pioneered a new people carrier segment with the original Zafira – the midi seven-seater. The Zafira was handier than a full-size people carrier like the Ford Galaxy or Renault Espace yet able to carry two more people – likely to be kids though – than a standard compact MPV such as the Renault Scenic. With all rear seats folding flat to the floor it could also better an estate car and challenge a van for load-lugging capacity. No wonder it soon spawned imitators such as the two excellent rivals also featured here.

carsforkent.co.uk

TOYOTA VERSO



TOYOTA quickly realised its previous five-seat Corolla Verso was just not cutting it in a growing market for mid-sized MPVs and axed it in favour of the current seven-seat version after just two years – an awesome demonstration of the Japanese giant's determination and production powers. Now known simply as the Verso, the result is one of the best MPVs in the class: stylish, highly flexible, generously equipped and featuring some good engines, plus built-in Toyota reliability and quality.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA



YOU could almost hear the motor industry gasp when the Zafira was unveiled. OK, the styling was never exciting, but Vauxhall's motoring equivalent of a Swiss Army Knife came with brilliant flexibility as standard thanks to the Flex7 system that allowed the rear two rows of seats to be folded flat into the floor, to create various permutations or a massive load area. The original has been replaced by an even better model, but it is still a star buy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VW TOURAN



BEWARE bargain priced Tourans – these are usually examples with just five seats rather than the more usual seven, an asset which helps Tourans to have one of the slowest depreciation rates in the MPV sector. The Touran is a good drive for a people carrier, refined and well-built to VW's high standards even if the styling inside and outside is a little bit bland. The car counters this minor gripe through some excellent engines including VW's renowned turbodiesels.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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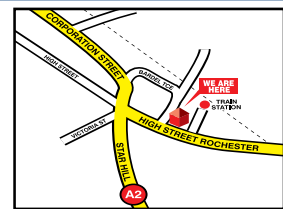
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Advertising Feature

Class Cars



INDEPENDENT Mercedes-Benz and Porsche specialist, Class Cars is situated at new premises in Wingham near Canterbury.

Originally based in Eastry, the company moved to due to a requirement for larger and improved premises, allowing them to serve clients to a higher standard than already set.

The company is a partnership between Steve and Maggie Ackrill. Steve has more than 30 years technical experience of performance and prestige vehicles while Maggie deals with administration and is the first point of contact for customers whether by telephone, email or in person.

Established 10 years ago, Class Cars has become the place to go for performance and prestige car owners who wish to have their cars maintained and serviced without paying main dealer prices.

In 2001, Class Cars concentrated their efforts and resources and specialised in Mercedes-Benz and more recently Porsche. There is a team of highly skilled staff offering a very high standard of workmanship at affordable prices.

Class Cars have been servicing, repairing and upgrading Mercedes-Benz and Porsche cars for 10 years. The new site on the A257, between Canterbury and Sandwich, is fully

Quality care for your quality car

equipped to offer servicing to manufacturers recommended schedules using genuine parts and Mobil lubricants.

Class Cars have both the Mercedes-Benz Star Tester and Porsche PST2 diagnostic systems – these manufacturer supplied tools enables Class Cars to offer main dealer levels of system testing and fault diagnosis. The company's latest acquisition is the Hunter DSP600 Imaging Four-Wheel Aligner System. This state-of-the-art equipment carries Mercedes-Benz and Porsche approval enabling Class Cars to adjust suspension set-

tings to the optimum to prevent uneven tyre wear, steering pull or resetting alignment after having a suspension upgrade package fitted.

The company holds a large stock of genuine Mercedes-Benz and Porsche parts covering all that is likely to be required for routine servicing so if a car requires new brake discs and pads, after seeking customer approval, the work can usually be carried out the same day. All cars are washed before being handed back to the customer and a full valet service is available if required.

Class Cars are agents for Revo Technik

performance software and can offer power upgrades for Porsche and all VAG Group vehicles. They are also agents for Carlsson Mercedes-Benz tuning products and Bilstein Suspension Kits.

As from the New Year, Class Cars will offer servicing and repairs to all Smart Cars along with the opening of their Smartzone showroom for the sale of Smart cars and accessories.

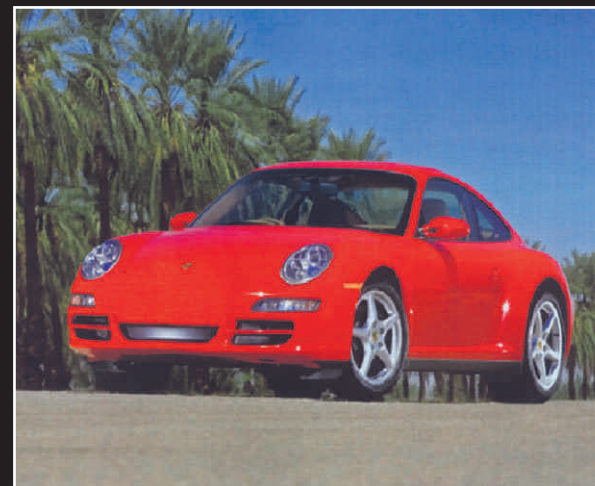
For further information call 01227 723980 or visit the website at www.classcarscantebury.co.uk.

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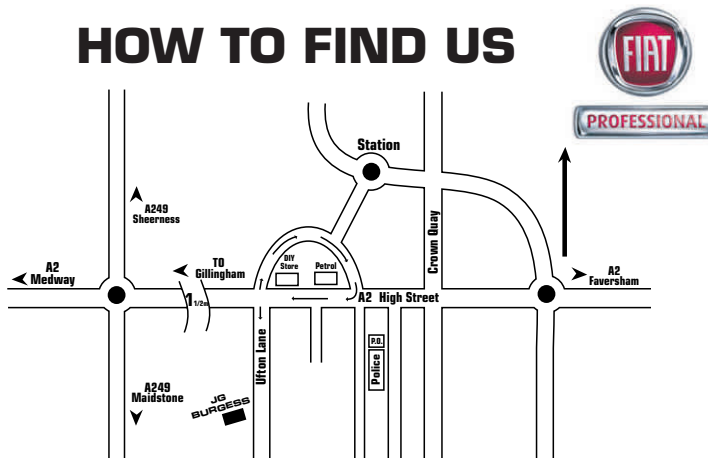


07)07 Reg Fiat Grande Punto 1.4 Active Sport

ALLOYS, CD, ABS, ELEC WIND, A/BAGS, ELEC MIRRORS, SIDE SKIRTS, SPOILER, FOGLAMPS, 3000 MILES

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EARLY WARNING - Nissan event weekend

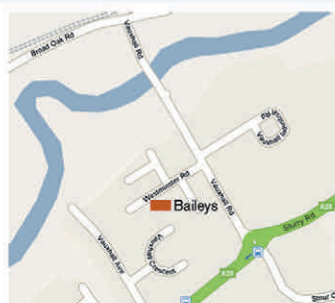
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2003/52, 88000 Miles Gold Met, 2 door Convertible, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, Power Hood, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Remote Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, Multi-CD Changer, Stereo, Sports Pack, Body Kit, fsh **£13,950**

Bentley Continental GT 6.0 Auto Coupe



2005/54, 28000 Miles Arena Red Metallic, 2 door Coupe, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Remote Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Electric Seats, One Owner, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, Multi-CD Changer, Stereo, tv sat nav **£64,950**

BMW 335i Coupe Auto



2006/56, 8000 Miles Silver Met, 2 door Coupe Automatic, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Remote Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Electric Seats, One Owner, Service History, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, 1 owner, sat nav **£29,500**

BMW 325ci Convertible Auto



2003/03, 59900 Miles Silver, 2 door Convertible, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, Power Hood, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Remote Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Electric Seats, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, Sports Pack, Body Kit **£14,950**

BMW 325ci Coupe Manual



2002/02, 49000 Miles Topaz Blue Met (Anthrax Cloth and Leather), 2 door Coupe, Climate Control, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Electric Seats, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, superb throughout **£9,950**

BMW 330ci Coupe Manual Individual



2001/51, 97000 Miles Green Metallic, 2 door Coupe, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Electric Seats, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, fsh, tv sat/nav, cd **£8,950**

BMW 318ise



2001/Y, 96000 Miles Silver Met (Grey Cloth), 4 door Saloon, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, Multi-CD Changer, Stereo, rear boot spoiler in superb condition throughout **£5,950**

Kia Sedona 2.9td auto 7seats lx



2002/52, 62000 Miles Red Metallic (Grey Cloth), 5 door Estate Automatic, Air Conditioning, PAS, ABS, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, superb throughout **£5,995**

BMW 530 d se Auto



2003/53, 41000 Miles Green Met (Black Cloth), 4 door Saloon Automatic, Climate Control, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, One Owner, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, one owner, f BMW s/history **£13,950**

Mercedes Benz C220cdi se Manual



2003/03, 90000 Miles Silver Met, 4 door Saloon Diesel, Climate Control, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Electric Seats, One Owner, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo **£8,950**

Mercedes Benz CL500 Coupe Auto



2004/04, 66000 Miles Tanzemite Blue, 2 door Coupe Automatic, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, PAS, ABS, Electric Sunroof, Alloy, Remote Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Seats, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, Multi-CD Changer, Stereo, sat/nav dvd facelift model **£19,950**

Mercedes Benz CL500 Coupe Auto



2002/52, 58000 Miles Black Met, 2 door Coupe Automatic, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, PAS, ABS, Electric Sunroof, Alloy Wheels, Remote Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Electric Seats, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, Multi-CD Changer, Stereo, sat/nav, tv **£18,950**

Mercedes Benz CL500 Coupe Auto



2001/51, 52000 Miles Chaldeny Blue, 2 door Coupe Automatic, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, PAS, ABS, Air Bags, Electric Sunroof, Alloy, Remote Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Seats, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, Multi-CD Changer, Stereo, sat/nav, tv **£16,950**

Mercedes Benz SL280 Auto Convertible



2000/W, 80000 Miles Silver Met, 2 door Convertible Automatic, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, Power Hood, PAS, ABS, Alloy, Remote Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, Electric Seats, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, hard top parking sensors **£10950**

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2001 Y	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.8 V6 4MOTION, 5 Doors, 59,000 mls, Met Silver. a/c, e/m, e/w, Radio/CD Multichanger, Radio/CD.w 17" santa monica alloys,	£4,190
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2002 52	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.8 T GTI, 5 Doors, 59,000 mls, Met Black. a/c, e/w, w/m, Alloy wheels,Central locking, Computer,	£3,990
2003 03	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.8 T GTI, 3 Doors, 49,000 mls, Black. ABS, a/c, Alloy wheels, Climate Control	£3,990
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	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.6 SE, Automatic, only 24,000 mls, reflex silver, light side damage, starts and drives	£2,990
2002 51	SEAT LEON 1.8 20V T CUPRA 5 Doors, Met Black, ABS, Alloy wheels, Climate Control, e/w, e/m,	£2,890
2001 Y	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.3 V5, 5 Doors, 79,000 mls, Black, ABS, a/c, Alloy wheels, Computer, e/m, e/w,	£2,490

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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

LIVELY UP YOURSELF

Lively female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555

LOVE TO LAUGH

Full-time mum, 26, loves pubs, clubs, cinema, family days out, GSOH, likes socialising, relaxing, looking for honest, loyal, fun, romantic person who's a N/S. Box 900347

AMAZING ACE!

Confident female, 28, 5ft8, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, into most things in life, seeks genuine guy for friendship and more. Box 434229

MAJESTIC IN MARGATE

Single mum, 28, 5ft1, brown hair/blue eyes, I'm new to Margate, and I'm looking for a guy with a GSOH. I enjoy going out, socialising etc. Box 431105

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL

Black, beautiful, curvy, single mum, 31, enjoys outdoors, cooking, home-life, cosy nights in, eating out, cinema looking for tall, sincere gentleman for friendship/relationship. Box 432283

TRY NEW THINGS

Mum of 1, I'm 5ft4, blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old. I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH. I like keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559

R U THE 1?

Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, East Peckham, nr Tonbridge. Seeks caring, loyal male for friendship leading to more. Box 433107

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

African lady, 33, brown eyes, likes socialising, music, pubs, cinema, seeks male for friendship and more. Box 431328

BETTER DAYS

Sincere female, 35, 5ft3, brunette, likes the gym, staying in, seeks mixed race, tall male for friendship and more. Box 433256

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Single parent of 4 kids, 35, 5ft6 and long hair with blue eyes, looking for friendly guy for friendship and maybe more. Box 900447

TRUST MATTERS

Independent, professional female, 35, 5'7", fit, GSOH, enjoy travelling, cinema, looking for a like-minded, honest and loyal male to share life with. Box 901771

MADE FOR YOU

Hi, 35yr old bubbly, fun-loving female, GSOH, looking for friendship, maybe LTR. I enjoy most things in life. Box 430911

YOURS FOREVER!

Active, affectionate female, 35, 5ft3, blonde, blue eyes, likes cinema, walking, cycling, swimming, watching wrestling, WLTm tall, dark & handsome bloke. Box 430932

SECURE FUTURE

Honest, caring lady, attractive, from Tunbridge Wells, 37, hazel eyes, curvy, 5ft6, with a GSOH, many interests, clubs, cooking, cosy nights. Looking for stocky male, 35-45. Box 424364

MISSING MALE COMPANY

Chatty female, 36, 5'4", single mum, blonde, slim, likes pubs, clubs, going out, having fun, seeks male, for fun nights out and giggles. Rochester. Box 372889

FUN AND LAUGHS

Hi, I'm Joan, 39, 5'8", slim/med build, brown hair, green eyes, looking for male, with GSOH, for good times. Box 424732

THE WIT TO WHO!

Kent female, 39, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152892

LOVING TOUCH

39yr old single mum, own house, 5'7", brown hair, seeking a kind-hearted man for companionship. Box 433637

GET IT TOGETHER

Kind, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, non-smoker, friendship first. Box 899694

NEVER SAY NEVER

Decent 36yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, eating & having fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 739664

NOT FOOTBALL CRAZY

Divorced, affectionate lady, 40, large build, 5'6", love staying in, cinema, looking for a thoughtful male to share good things in life, leading to LTR. Box 430332

LOVE TO MEET YOU

Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy. I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford Box 428464

FOREVER YOURS

I'm Caroline, 42, single mum, likes having fun, eating out, wine bars, swimming, looking for someone for something meaningful. Box 430952

TAKE A CHANCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

WHERE R U?

Sincere, reliable woman, 43, long blonde hair, blue eyes, community worker, loves horse riding, travelling, cooking, looking for my soul mate. Box 428689

FOOTBALL FANATIC

Deal-based lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384

SMOOTH MOVE

Kind, caring, genuine person, 43, love music, outdoors, good conversations, looking for friendship initially and maybe more. Box 898448

BE HERE NOW

Melvie, 44, looking for an understanding, sensitive man. I enjoy music and being adventurous. Box 431913

AND ALL THAT JAZZ!

Warm, radiant, witty, intelligent, attractive, black female, Christian, 44, likes music, jazz, travel, art, restaurants, theatre, seeking a cultured, N/S, intelligent, solvent gentleman. Box 433075

A FINE ROMANCE

Pleasant female, 43, medium/large build, blonde/green eyes, grown up children, beach walks, relaxing, reading, wining, seeks sincere male with GSOH, for LTR. Box 429071

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Petite, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLTm N/S man to share things with. Box 429682

A NEW FUTURE

Busy, energetic female, 45, 5ft2, blonde, blue eyes, size 12, professional, likes swimming, holiday, relaxing, walking, seeks down-to-earth guy. Box 428633

TIME TO SETTLE DOWN

Romantic woman, 45, likes the good things in life, WLTm a special, good-looking man to complete the jigsaw. Box 434511

NEW ADVENTURES

Blonde female, 40+, attractive, fun-loving, GSOH, enjoy cinema, eating out, music, dancing, WLTm attractive companion for days out, holidays, possible romance. Ashford. Box 906594

NICE AND LOVING

44yr old female, 5'5", brown hair, slim/medium build, enjoys pubs, clubs, if you are out there, give me a ring! Maidstone Box 413448

BE ORIGINAL!

Sincerity, honesty, and intelligence, is that just too much to ask for? With a hint of cheekiness, I'm 46 from the Maidstone area. Box 156956

KNOW HOW TO TREAT A LADY?

Blonde haired, attractive female, 46, 5ft4, slim, GSOH, seeking good-looking, slim, kind, trendy male, 35-45, with a GSOH, and fantastic personality. Sheerness Box 432618

TIME TO SETTLE

Attractive female, 47, 5ft5, slim, black origin, practising Catholic educated professional, divorced, likes reading, classical music, gardening, seeking genuine, honest, loving male. Ashford Box 434548

STIMULATING COMPANY

Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLTm nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829

READY TO START AGAIN

Hi, I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, divorced, hard-working, WLTm compatible male, stocky build, for good times, possibly LTR. Box 432992

ALL THAT I NEED

Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving & outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out & staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833

BRIGHTEN UP MY WORLD

Loving and loyal 49yr old female, GSOH, enjoys walking, countryside, cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 48-56 for friendship. Box 909974

CANTERBURY CONNECTION

Attractive, blonde woman, 5'4", 49, enjoys the gym, cooking, cinema, theatre, travel and restaurants, seeks male for friendship. Box 398091

EVENING PRIMROSE

Primrose, 51, divorced with 3 children and 2 grandchildren. I'm 5ft2, with dark hair, looking for someone for companionship. Box 433580

ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT?

Loyal, bubbly and affectionate, attractive lady, 51, dark hair, enjoy clubs, nights in, love animals, seeking a like-minded gent for happiness. Box 433585

FEEL THE MAGIC

Slender, 51, long dark brown hair, brown eyes, 5ft6, well groomed, very easy-going and tactile, GSOH, enjoys socialising, nights in/out, eating out, cinema walks Box 434052

LOVE IS IN THE HAIR!

Sue, 51, slim, blue eyes, brunette, ladies hairdresser, looking for someone special. How about you? Box 431904

DO YOU SCRUB UP?

Modern, professional, classy, loyal female, early 50s, 5'4", blonde hair, medium build, enjoys countryside, WLTm gent, 45-58, smart appearance, for friendship, possible relationship. Box 825500

TAKE IT AS RED-HEAD

Female, 51, 5'6", attractive, redhead, green eyes, seeking professional, male soulmate, 45-55. West Kent. Box 477686

INDEPENDENT WOMAN

Bright, bubbly lady, 52, 5'4", blonde hair, recently divorced, own home and car, enjoy cinema, eating out, drinks, looking for companionship and friendship. Box 419966

COUNTING ON YOU

Lovely, honest lady, 52, enjoy walks, cycling, travel, WLTm sociable gent to share interests and possibly leading to LTR. Box 399420

SMART MOVE

Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854

SAVING ALL MY LOVE

Young, 57yr old modern female widow, slim, enjoys nights in/out, socialising, seeking honest, reliable man for friendship, love, affection and TLC. Box 920739

BEST FRIENDS

Friendly female 56, likes most things in life, cinema, clubs, pubs, WLTm tall, sincere, caring male, for friendship and good times. Box 320642

NOT ASKING FOR MUCH

Fun loving, bubbly, tactile lady, 50s, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in, I'm voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903560

DON'T PASS ME BY

Young 61 year old, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, very happy-go-lucky, likes dancing, walks, eating in/out. I'm very adaptable, looking for a LTR. Margate Box 434424

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

Widowed woman, 61, no ties, positive outlook, kind nature with GSOH, like the usual things and would like to find a male counterpart. Box 431210



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KEEPP DANCIN'!

Brunette lady, 61, looking for a LTR, friendship first, any age considered. Interests: dancing walking, socialising, cuddling! Margate. Box 432246

LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG

Useful, intelligent, caring female, 62, young looking/acting, like walks, music, cooking, seeking sensitive, caring, uncomplicated male, N/S, perhaps a dog owner, for friendship first Box 434345

LADY IN WAITING

Cuddly, loving lady, 64, who loves nice conversations, staying in, wining/dining, loves animals, gardening, WLTm considerate, faithful gent for companionship. Box 427579

GENUINE GENTLEMAN ONLY

Kind-hearted, 63yr old lady, looking for genuine, down-2-earth male to share the simple things in life and enjoy life with. Ramsgate. Box 410983

LADY IN WAITING

Caring, loyal and young-at-heart lady, 65, 5ft, blonde hair, looking for someone nice, friendly, who likes eating out, restaurants, holidays, for company. Box 899242

BOWL ME OVER

Attractive, bubbly lady, 60s, enjoys good food/wine, bowls, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine male, 60+, for friendship first possibly more. Box 428798

Women

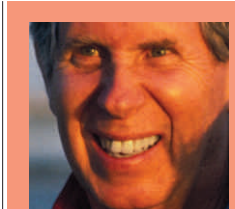
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Cuddly, buxom female, 46, blue eyes, very feminine, loves music, animals, reading, writing, stars, very genuine, meals in/out, seeking boyish female, who's loving and caring Box 433152

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Capricorn female, 48, 5ft7, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, caring, animal lover, into DIY, sports, reading, WLTm someone in Maidstone area Box 434547



MEN'S SPOTLIGHT

DON'T STOP ME NOW

Medway based male, 32, blond hair, green eyes, slim, 6ft, likes motorsports, nights out, dancing, seeking someone to have a good time with, maybe relationship Box 427825

MARGATE MAN

Single male, 32, easygoing, 6ft2, dark hair/blue eyes. Looking for female, 22-34, who likes to have fun, for friendship, possibly relationship. Box 431481

REAL MAN

36yr old honest, kind, caring, single male, blond hair, 6ft, like walks, cinema, nights in/out, enjoy family life, WLTm like-minded, genuine female, for fun times, hopefully more Box 434610

THE SWIM OF THINGS

Single dad of 2, 35, 6', blond, blue eyes, enjoys cycling, swimming, country walks, seeks female for friendship and more. Box 404402

FINALLY FOUND YOU

Good-looking male 35, 5'8", no ties, enjoys pubs, restaurants, holidays, bowling, theme parks and more, seeks petite female, to share good times with. Ashford Box 98029

R U 4 ME?

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company and conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH

Attractive, caring man, 37, very loyal, genuine, down-to-earth, from East Kent, many interests, it's about who you're with, not what you're doing. Box 423435

TRUSTWORTHY

Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big build. I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with GSOH. Box 423437

FANCY THIS

Jason, 38, 5ft8, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cycling, seeks genuine female for friendship and good times. Box 433326

DELIGHTFUL DARREN

Darren, 38, loving, caring & trustworthy, 5ft8, medium build, enjoys most things in life, seeks fun-loving lady to enjoy life with. Box 434234

MAKING SWEET MUSIC

Romantic male, 38, 6ft, blue eyes, medium/muscular build, enjoy socialising, cosy nights in, music, looking for a loving, fun-filled female for happiness. Chatham. Box 433795

HAPPINESS IS...

Good-looking male, 36, short spiky brown hair, likes dancing, socialising, films, WLTm nice, loyal, honest female, 30-42, for a relationship. Maidstone. Box 401597

MOVE CLOSER

Friendly male, 37, enjoys the usual things in life, seeks curvy, nice female, for friendship and more. Box 359467

SPORTS MAD

Single male, 39 years old, 2 sons, very interested in all kinds of sports, seeking a lovely lady Box 899774

A CERTAIN SMILE

Peter, 38, 5ft11, slim, enjoys music, cinema, dancing, restaurants, seeking loving female, for friendship leading to more. Chatham. Box 425364

COULD WE BE MAGIC?

Single male, 40 years old, 5ft4, medium build, dark hair, brown eyes, looking for a bubbly, adventurous female, who's fun to be with Box 433540

A SPARKLE

Hi, I'm a down-2-earth male, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, loves outdoors, sports, beach walks etc, WLTm an out-going female for good times. Box 899004

WHERE WILL IT GO?

Outgoing, laid-back, genuine guy, 40, looking for a similar female, 25-45, for perhaps a LTR Box 434398

TO ADVERTISE: EMAIL US @: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

TELEPHONE US ON: 01303 817040 FAX US ON: 01303 817004

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Senior & General Appointments 47-51



Focus on your **future!**

NEW YEAR NEW CAREER?

WANTED - CAR SALES EXECUTIVES

We have vacancies for New and Used Car Sales Executives at our Canterbury and Dover dealerships. You must be well organised, customer focused, self-motivated with the desire to be part of one of Kents largest Vauxhall retailers. In return we offer a highly competitive package including company car, comprehensive in-house training programme and above all the opportunity to work for one of the top dealerships in the South East.

What we are looking for... We want people who want to succeed, people who are open minded, who enjoy learning new skills and will be committed to our customers. Applicants will ideally have experience in retail sales with a full driving licence.

NEW CAR SALES CONTROLLER - Canterbury

Answering to the New Car Sales Manager this demanding role is to lead the sales team into achieving all key performance areas and effectively sell finance and insurance to our customers. You must be self-motivated, energetic and will need a proven track sales record and be highly numerate, this position would suit a senior sales person wishing to progress their career to the next level. Full training will be provided as part of our in-house training programme.

PART-TIME TELEPHONE RECEPTIONISTS - Broadstairs & Canterbury

We require experienced and efficient people to run our busy reception area at our Broadstairs and Canterbury dealerships. You will be required to deal with all general reception enquiries, operate a busy switchboard and meet and greet new and existing clients. There will also be some typing and filing work.

We have 2 part-time vacancies available at Broadstairs – 8.30am to 6.00pm Saturdays (one hour for lunch) and 1.00pm to 6.00pm Monday to Fridays. Saturdays 8.30am to 6pm at Canterbury.

FULLY QUALIFIED MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNICIAN - Broadstairs

We also have a vacancy for a fully qualified motor vehicle technician at our Broadstairs dealership. If you're able to demonstrate previous high levels of performance and you're looking for your skills to be appreciated, contact us now! We can provide the training and the career prospects that you're looking for!

What we are looking for... We want people who want to succeed, people who are open minded, who enjoy learning new skills and will be committed to our customers.

It's your career don't waste it!! Call Lucy now for an application form on 01227 710333 or email your CV to lsaunders@perrys.co.uk.

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Experienced Fire Alarm Service Engineer

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Pay rates that reflect your skills
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For further details please contact Julie Epsley
Bayada Nurses Ltd., Suite 5, 30 Churchill Square,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4YU
Tel: 01732 523442 (24 hour on call).

These positions are subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure

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Full and part time positions, working evenings and weekends
Starting Rate £5.59 per hour

Open day at Ramsgate Job Centre

Saturday 5th January 2008, from 10am to 3pm

Ring 01843 258 732 for further details.

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SAUFLON
PHARMACEUTICALS
LIMITED

Sauflon Pharmaceuticals Limited is an independent manufacturing company producing contact lenses and solutions for markets around the world. We currently have the following vacancies for;

QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY MANAGER – CHEMISTRY (Ref: QCC-3)

The position of Quality Control Laboratory Manager is within our busy QC Chemistry laboratory, reporting to the Quality Assurance Manager.

You will ideally hold a degree (or equivalent) in Analytical Science (or similar), have a varied experience of analytical techniques including chromatographic, spectroscopic, titrimetric and wet chemical analysis, and experience in method validation.

Good organisational skills, computer literacy, high self-motivation and well-developed communication skills are essential ideally with a minimum of 2 years working in a regulated analytical laboratory.

Hours of work: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

MAINTENANCE ELECTRICIAN (Ref: ENG-4)

We are currently seeking an enthusiastic and pro-active Maintenance Electrician.

As part of the maintenance team you will help maintain and repair plant equipment throughout the Ashford sites. Working to a high standard and compliant with legislation you will need to be able to work as part of a team, or alone.

You will have served a recognised electrical apprenticeship and possess the 16th edition certification. Experience as a qualified maintenance electrician is required and mechanical experience will be an advantage. A full driving license is essential.

Hours of work: 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

We offer a competitive salary, holiday entitlement and productivity bonus scheme.

To apply please post or email your CV stating your salary expectations to:-

Post: Mrs. S. Keeka (HR Department)
Sauflon Pharmaceuticals Limited,
Unit 8, Mace Industrial Estate
Ashford
Kent TN24 8EP
Email: simonilk@sauflon.co.uk

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MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Warren Wood Community Primary School and Language Unit

Specialist teacher (mixed year 3/4/5 class)
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and fixed term contract
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing date: 7 January 2008
To apply/more information
Kerry Trim, Assistant Headteacher
Warren Wood community Primary School and language unit
Arethusa Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 2UR
Telephone - (01634) 337227
Email trimk001@medway.org.uk

Hoo St Werburgh Primary School & Marlborough Centre

KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full or part time and temporary
Term of contract: To cover maternity leave
Required From: January 2008
Closing date: 3 January 2008
To apply/more information
Jo Trickett, Headteacher
Hoo St Werburgh Primary school & Marlborough Centre
Pottery Road
Hoo
Rochester

Kent ME3 9BS
Telephone - (01634) 338040
Email office@hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk

Thames View Junior School

KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Part time and temporary
Required From: 25 February 2008
Closing date: 10 January 2008
To apply/more information
Linda Lowrey, Headteacher
Thames View Junior School
Bloors Lane
Rainham
Gillingham
Kent ME8 7DX
Telephone - (01634) 232540
Email office@thamesview-jun.medway.sch.uk

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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Teacher of general subjects
Salary: MPS + SEN allowance (£1818)
Full Time and permanent
Required From: to be confirmed
Closing date: 15 January 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Karen Watkin, Office Manager
Rivermead School
Forge Lane
Gillingham
Kent ME7 1UG
Telephone - (01634) 338348
Email office@rivermead.medway.sch.uk

www.medway.gov.uk/teachingcareers

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check

Central Control Operator - 16 hrs per week £17,043 - £24,444 pro rata Planning & Communities

Our Housing Services team are seeking to recruit a further member of staff to join its busy 24 hour Control Centre, monitoring Lifeline Clients, CCTV surveillance system and Telecare.

The shift system is varied and covers the full 24 hour clock, 365 days per year. Therefore unsocial working hours forms an integral part of this demanding post and post-holders will be expected to be flexible in their approach.

Post-holders are expected to be proactive in their approach to problem solving and a "Can Do" attitude is essential. A calm disposition and an ability to multi-task is also a vital requirement.

Additionally in order to fulfil this demanding role you will need:

- Excellent communication and observation skills.
- First Class hearing and a clear speaking voice.
- You will have the ability to prioritise your work-load in a high pressure environment.
- Good administration skills, including data entry and computer literate.

Applicants will be holders of, or make a commitment to study for the 'Edexcel National Certificate for Central Control Operators' and will be subject to receipt of satisfactory enhanced disclosure check from the Criminal Records Bureau and Airwaves check.

Initially the post-holder will be based at Philippa House Control Centre however in the early part of the new year the team will transfer to a purpose built Control Room Suite at the Civic Centre.

For further information about these posts, please contact Angela Vince or Shelley Squence on 01303 242971.

Application details can be downloaded at www.shepway.gov.uk, or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.

The closing date for completed application forms is Friday 18 January 2008

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Shepway District Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of race, colour, age, sex or disability.



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Our new £multi-million, purpose-built casino offers fantastic facilities and great food and bar service, providing the best night out for our customers.

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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, phase 2 of which completes at the end of 2007. We are now developing the plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Estate & Building Services Manager

37 hrs per week, salary: £44,149 - £49,875 per annum Post ref: EBSM1/KoS
Interview Date: Tuesday 22 January 2008.

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to ensure that College sites are fully utilised, maintained and enhanced, to provide an optimum learning and working environment for all users. You will have the opportunity to produce, update and develop the College's property and accommodation strategies, and will prepare maintenance and small buildings works programmes and schedules. You will lead on health and safety strategy and policy, and ensure the provision and maintenance of effective fire precautions, security systems and safety arrangements. Assisting the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in the preparation of relevant capital and revenue budgets, you will also manage the department's budgets and service contracts, and line manage the Estates team. You will develop and manage the College's energy management policy, advise on the use of professional services in connection with estates services, and will take responsibility for buildings & grounds maintenance and security for the insurance of the premises and assets.

To be successful, you will have a relevant professional qualification such as RICS, RIBA, MBIFM, or MIMechE, as well as professional qualifications in the area of Estates Management. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate considerable and successful estates management experience. You will have demonstrable experience of managing change with a commitment to continuous improvement, as well as having direct experience of line managing staff, budgets and resource management.

Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, have a high level of interpersonal skills and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to main bus/train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff discount scheme



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CAPITAL PROJECT MANAGER

37 hrs per week, salary: c£70,000 per annum Post ref: CPM1/KoS

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to take responsibility for the strategic and general management of the redevelopment project, ensuring that it is delivered on time, within budget, and in accordance with the design brief and targets.

Leading the project on behalf of the College, you will direct, co-ordinate and supervise the project in association with the College's Senior Management Team, Project Team and consultants.

Responsible for ensuring that the overall project programme can be approved by the Corporation and all activities are completed within defined parameters, you will also prepare the Estates Working Party papers in liaison with the Principal and the Clerk to the Corporation.

You will recommend and secure approval for any modifications of variation to the agreed brief, and will advise the Corporation on overall risk and exposure through the Capital programme.

You will be responsible for all aspects of financial management in liaison with the College's Director of Finance and Corporate Services, including monitoring of cashflow against College plans, all forms of asset management, including tenders, procurement and leasing options, and achieving best value in line with LSC guidelines.

To be successful, you will have a closely relevant professional qualification, such as a Postgraduate qualification in project management, or equivalent experience of public sector construction. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate detailed understanding of the financial and contractual management of construction projects, and the ability to think strategically to lead and advocate on complex projects. You will also have negotiation skills, and the ability to work to deadlines and to lead and motivate a team.

Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, a high level of communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

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- Staff discount scheme



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Sheppey College

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College, a leading Higher Education and Further Education College. We are looking for motivated people to join our team and help us change lives for the better and achieve our goal of being one of the best colleges by 2010.

Lecturer Construction – Wood Occupations (Sheppey College)

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.

Post Ref: 05/60/KOS

Lecturer Hairdressing (Sheppey College)

14.8 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/07/KOS

Supply Lecturers (Sheppey College) are required in the following areas:

Administration

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Admin/KOS

Cache

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Cache/KOS

Construction

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Con/KOS

Basic Skills (at Canterbury and Sheppey College)

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/BS/KOS

Text & Word Processing

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/TWP/KOS

Supported Learning

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/SL/KOS

Caretaker (Sheppey College)

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,464 per annum.

Post Ref: 04/03/KOS

Supply Learning Support – (Sheppey College)

Various hours available, salary starting from £16,284 pro rata per annum. Please specify your area/s of expertise in your application form.

Beauty

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

Childcare

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

Supported Learning

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Friday 18 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym at Canterbury Campus
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme
- Close to City Centre



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Faculty Head Engineering & Construction

37 hrs per week, salary no less than £40,622 per annum Post Ref: FHEC1/KoS

We are seeking an individual of the highest calibre to help achieve our goal of being one of the best FE College by 2010.

You will be responsible for the operational delivery of the strategic plan within the Engineering & Construction Faculty, and will ensure a quality provision and suitable curriculum development to aid the learner experience. You will also play a key role in contributing to the development of the College's strategic & development plans, and will lead and inspire a team of Section Managers.

As a College we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of both young people and vulnerable adults, and the promotion of this will form an integral part of your role.

You will have significant experience in education leadership and people management, and will have the leadership skills to set the highest possible standards, both within your Faculty and throughout the College. In return, we will offer you the rewards and support you would expect at such a senior level.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

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- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
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Marketing and Communications Manager

37 hrs per week, salary: £36,188 per annum Post Ref: 0806/KoS

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to take responsibility for the strategic and general management of the college's marketing and communications, to establish, lead and manage a multi-disciplinary marketing and communications team; providing strategic vision and direction to ensure that the college's goals are met.

You will lead in the development, implementation and evaluation of a range of communications and marketing projects including events, campaigns and consultations.

The strategy you develop will be informed by thorough market and competitor research. You will be responsible for analysing and reporting to the Senior Management Team on the findings of this research and on campaign effectiveness and progress against budget and targets.

The college's internal communications are a key element of this role as the college strives to "Be the best college in the South East". Your team will commission, write, edit, proof read and coordinate internal and external publications, leaflets and promotional materials. Your experience of working with local, regional and national media will be essential in building and communicating the college's brand values and identity through a proactive media and public relations strategy.

This post is a senior role within the college structure and you will be required to provide reputation management advice and media advice to senior managers.

To be successful, you will have a closely relevant professional qualification, and experience of leading a marketing and communications team.

You will possess a high level of communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

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Canterbury
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www.canterbury.ac.uk

Canterbury Christ Church University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services - notably teacher training, policing, health and social care - and is a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic and professional areas.

CANTERBURY CAMPUS

Computing Services

Computer Liaison Officer (Two Posts)

£27,466 to £29,139 per annum

Following a restructure of our Computing Services Department, we're seeking two additional experienced professionals to join the Computing Liaison Team. As part of this small team, you'll proactively develop the department's relationship with the faculties - you'll also identify the potential benefits of IT, help to establish business cases, and meet the needs of key stakeholders in this field.

Educated to degree level, you'll combine project management experience with the proven ability to enable the interaction of IT and business operation. It's also important that you are an excellent communicator who is comfortable liaising at all levels of our organisation. A specific background in IT support would be an advantage, as would experience of developing service level agreements. Ref: CLO/CS/77.

Interview date: 21 & 22 February 2008.

Web Systems Administrator/ Programmer

£27,466 to £29,139 per annum (A higher salary may be available for an exceptional candidate)

As part of our Infrastructure Group, you'll provide expert technical support and development across our IT infrastructure. You will take responsibility for a number of key web services - and make a real contribution to our strategic projects, including an integrated identity management system.

Along with experience of web application development technologies and IIS/Windows Server administration, you'll need good interpersonal skills, a flexible approach, and familiarity with internet protocols. Ideally, you will have a working knowledge of C#, .Net, SQL, and XHTML - as well as a strong understanding of web technologies such as ADO, AJAX, ASP, XML and CSS. Ref: WSA2/CS/77.

For an informal discussion on either of these vacancies, please contact Louise Sibley on 01227 782522.

Student Support & Guidance

Student Adviser (Dyslexia & Neuro-Diversity)

£22,332 to £24,403 per annum

You will be responsible for prospective and registered students with dyslexia and neuro-diverse conditions (such as dyspraxia and Asperger syndrome), ensuring that the University provides appropriate support for their needs.

We are seeking a team member to provide advice, guidance and information to students and to advise other University staff on appropriate, reasonable adjustments to enable access to the curriculum and all aspects of student life.

You will be educated to at least A level standard or equivalent and be able to demonstrate that you have broad experience of working in a supportive capacity with people with neuro-diverse conditions (in either an educational or voluntary sector setting). Further study or professional development in the field of dyslexia and/or neuro-diversity would be advantageous. Ref: SA/SSG/77.

Library Services

Faculty Liaison Librarian (Health & Social Care)

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic librarian to join the Academic Services team at a busy University Library. You will be responsible for sharing academic liaison for the Health & Social Care Faculty, and will contribute to the provision of a library service which is responsive to the needs of all students and staff.

A qualified librarian, you should have previous professional library experience, ideally within the university sector. Excellent presentation and communication skills, along with a good working knowledge of information resources, are essential. You must have a commitment to continued professional development and be able to work independently, as well as part of a team. Ref: FLL2/LS/77.

Sport Science, Tourism and Leisure

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Science (Biomechanics)

£26,666 to £40,335 per annum

Applications are invited for a full-time post of Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Science to teach Biomechanics on a range of undergraduate programmes as well as contributing to the Department's expanding research programme. Applicants who can also contribute to other areas of sport and exercise science including research methods will be particularly welcome.

Applicants should possess a relevant first and/or higher degree and ideally should also possess a research degree and BASES accreditation. Ref: BIO/SSTL/77.

Informal enquiries to the Head of Department, Dr Chris Bull on 01227 782334.

The starting date is 1 April 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Campus Services

Security Porter

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum

You will be responsible for maintaining the general security of the University premises including residential and office accommodation, maintaining CCTV surveillance, setting intruder and fire alarms and reacting to breaches of security. There will be some receptionist and switchboard duties particularly at nights and weekends.

You will have previous security related experience preferably within an educational establishment or similar, be of smart appearance with demonstrable interpersonal skills. You will have excellent communication skills and be able to use the telephone and e-mail systems. A relevant SIA licence will be an advantage.

Shift allocations and duties are variable and flexibility is required. There will be both day and night shift working at any one of our sites although this post will be predominantly a night shift post and you must recognise this as part of the role. Ref: SP4/CAM/77.

Accommodation Office

Security Caretaker (20 hours)

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum pro rata

The University has a wide range of student accommodation housing some 1,500 students in either self-catering flats or in catered halls spread over different sites, both on and off campus. During vacations they are also available for conferences and commercial letting.

You will be an integral part of a small team which helps to secure and maintain the student living environment at the University Halls of Residence sites.

With a background in caretaking/security in the public sector you will be able to deliver an excellent level of customer service, possess good communication and interpersonal skills and have a 'can do' approach to minor repairs, maintenance and general duties.

The hours of work will be Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday. Ref: SC2/ACC/77.

Night Warden (Two Posts)

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum

The University has a wide range of student accommodation housing some 1,500 students in either self-catering flats or in catered halls. The accommodation is spread over different sites, both on and off campus in Canterbury and during vacations they are available for conferences and commercial letting.

Reporting to the Accommodation Services Manager you will help to secure and maintain the student living environment on the University Halls of Residence sites working a varied shift roster any 5 days out of 7, mainly night shifts. The successful applicant, will nevertheless, need to be flexible and with due notice (usually a month's notice of change) accept shift changes readily.

With a background in caretaking/security in the public sector you will be able to deliver as part of a central security team an excellent level of customer service to students, staff and visitors to the University. You will also have good communication and interpersonal skills. Ref: NW1/ACC/77.

Campus Catering Services

Executive Head Chef

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

Working with the Front of House and Catering Systems Manager this is a key managerial post to move the catering service forward.

With at least NVQ Level 2/3 in Food Preparation and Cooking you will have worked in an institutional catering environment at Head Chef level. You will also be in possession of a current Intermediate Food Hygiene Certificate and have been actively involved (preferably led) the introduction of HACCP into a food production kitchen.

You should be conscientious with flair and creativity and be keen to lead an excellent culinary team towards continuing success. Proven leadership skills, financial acumen, communication skills and flair, imagination and enthusiasm for food are essential as is the ability to work in a very busy environment. Ideally you will have experience of working in Higher Education. Ref: EHC1/CAT/77.

Department of Childhood Studies (Location to be confirmed)

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer - Physical Education

£27,466 to £40,335 per annum

You will be a dynamic member of staff working with the existing Physical Education team at an exciting time, when new initiatives are being designed and implemented. You will teach across a range of programmes, including the BA/BSc Physical Education and Sport & Exercise Science, and also will make significant contributions to the ongoing development of Physical Education at the University

You will have a Masters degree (or a commitment to undertake one) and be familiar with current national and international developments and issues in the field of Physical Education. Experience of, or research interest in Inclusion and/or social and cultural aspects of Physical Education are desirable. Ref: LSL9/CHS/77.

Informal enquiries to the Programme Director Paul Carney on 01227 782877 or paul.carney@canterbury.ac.uk

Department of Educational Research & NICER

Research Fellow in Early Years (Fixed Term for 2 years)

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

Attached to an early years project on character and values education, you will carry out fieldwork, be responsible for analysis and literature reviews and contribute to the writing of reports and materials for a new project beginning in the Autumn Term 2007.

You will be enthusiastic and committed, contributing towards a dynamic and ambitious group of researchers and practitioners. Your subject background will be less important than strong generic research skills, the ability to deliver work of the highest quality and to work as part of a team. Ref: RF1/TEM/77.

For an information discussion, please contact Professor James Arthur on 01227 782277.

Office of The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic)

Academic Registrar

Attractive salary: up to £60,000 per annum

We are seeking to appoint an outstanding individual to the post of Academic Registrar. This is a senior position offering an exciting opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction and management of several important dimensions of student administration within the university.

Reporting to the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), your responsibilities will involve leadership of a range of central Registry functions including: management of the central record system (QLS); management of the timetabling and rooming function and system (Syllabus+); student registration; invoicing of tuition fees in liaison with the Student Loans Company (SLC); administration of examinations and processing of student results; management and organisation of graduation and award ceremonies; statistical reporting for internal and external purposes such as required by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

You will be qualified to degree level or equivalent, preferably to higher degree or doctorate level. You will have extensive, senior and relevant experience, including managing a mainframe database, managing staff and budgets, preferably within a Higher Education environment. Excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills are essential. Ref: ACA/APA/77.

MEDWAY CAMPUS

Allied Health Professions

Senior Lecturer in Speech & Language Therapy (0.5fte)

£32,796 to £40,335 per annum pro rata

We are looking for an HPC-registered Speech and Language Therapist to join the enthusiastic SLT team supporting the Post Graduate Diploma in Speech and Language Therapy delivered jointly with University of Greenwich.

You will have expertise in working with adults with communication disorders, and although not essential, you may also have an interest in voice, applied linguistics, adult learning disabilities, or hearing impairment. You will develop this as a key role with existing colleagues from Canterbury Christ Church University and University of Greenwich. You will hold a relevant degree and be interested in extending your professional profile. Ref: SLT1/AHP/77.

For informal discussion, please contact Professor Kate Springett, Head of Department, on 01227 782935 or kate.springett@canterbury.ac.uk or Marian McCormick on 01634 894432 or marian.mccormick@canterbury.ac.uk

Closing date: 1 February 2008.

SALOMONS' CAMPUS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Computing Services

Campus Support Lead

£27,466 to £29,139 per annum

As part of our User Technology team, you'll provide essential support to a wide range of users - resolving any problems they are experiencing with hardware, software, networking and AV. While based at the Salomons campus, you will on occasion need to travel to other campuses across Kent.

Having previously worked in a Computing Support environment, you must be an experienced IT professional with plenty of initiative. Self-motivation and flexibility are essential in this role, along with good communication skills at all levels. Ref: CSL/CS/77.

For an informal discussion please contact Louise Sibley on 01227 782522.

Application forms and further details are available from www.canterbury.ac.uk. Alternatively please call 01227 782475 (answerphone) or e-mail hr@canterbury.ac.uk quoting the appropriate reference. No agencies.

Closing date unless stated: 25 January 2008.

achievement development experience employability

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opens in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Section Manager Equine, Animal Care and Veterinary Nursing

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,648 per annum.

Post ref: 08/08/KOS

Temporary Train to Gain Manager

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,648 per annum.

Fixed term post for up to 18 months.

Post Ref: 08/09/KOS

Lecturer Motor Vehicle

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.

Post Ref: 07/29/KOS

Lecturer Health & Social Care

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 05/39/KOS

Lecturer Beauty Therapy

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/05/KOS

Key Skills Lecturer – Travel & Tourism

22.2 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 06/09/KOS

Lecturer History

9.25 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 00/131/KOS

Lecturer Dyslexia/Dyscalculia

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.

Post Ref: 06/210/KOS

Lecturer Key Skills

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/10/KOS

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Basic Skills (at Canterbury and Sheppey College)

Post Ref: S/BS/KOS

Floristry

Post Ref: S/FL/KOS

Equine Studies

Post Ref: S/EQ

Health & Social Care

Post Ref: S/HSC/KOS

Early Years

Post Ref: S/EY/KOS

Health & Social Care (with a maternity nurse background)

Post Ref: S/MAT/KOS

HE Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Please specify your area/s of expertise in your application form.

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

HND Music Technology

Post Ref: S/HE/KOS

HND Music Performance

Post Ref: S/HE/KOS

BA (Hons) Creative Music Production & Technology

Post Ref: S/HE/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Friday 18 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

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Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opens in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Supply NVQ Assessor Health & Social Care

Various hours available. Salary range £17,640 – £25,294 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S./NVQ/KOS

Senior Nursery Officer – Education and Curriculum

37 hrs per week. Salary starting from £16,284 per annum.

Post Ref: 08/04/KOS

Curriculum Support Assistant Music

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,285

pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/03/KOS

Curriculum Support Assistant – Beauty

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,285

pro rata per annum.

Post ref: 04/118/KOS

Learning Support – Independent Living & Leisure Skills

37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £16,284

pro rata per annum. One Year fixed term post

Post Ref: 07/71/KOS

Resource Assistant/Placement Organiser

18.5 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: RA17/KOS

Central Administrator

37 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 per annum.

Post Ref: 06/157/KOS

Central Administrator

27 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 07/48/KOS

Supply Trainer Demonstrator Motor Vehicle

Various hours available. Salary starting from £18,285 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/TD/KOS

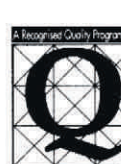
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COMPANIES of all sizes and sectors have been invited to take part in Kent's largest business exhibition and conference.

Kent 2020 Vision aims to showcase the best in business in the county and provide them with opportunities for future growth.

More than 300 leading companies exhibited at last year's event with at least 3,000 people attending. This year's conference is expected to attract more businesses and visitors. Early bookers will be able to choose locations which suit them.

The event organised by Business Link and supported by Kent County Council, which is now in its third year, will be held at Kent Showground in Detling on Thursday, April 3.

Tony Buddin, Business Link's head of marketing, said: "To some it may seem a long way off, but I can assure you that this business-to-business event is already firmly booked in the diaries of many companies in Kent and further afield."

"Well-organised, promoted and attended exhibitions such as Kent 2020 Vision are a valuable opportunity for local businesses to promote their products or services."

"They are also useful for networking, making new contacts and signing up new clients."

To book an exhibition stand visit www.kent2020.co.uk or call 01732 878555.

Science Park recognised as an important site

AN OFFICIAL report has given Kent Science Park the green light for its short and long-term expansion.

Planning inspector David Wildsmith's study acknowledged that the Sittingbourne site is "unique within the Thames Gateway" as "a regionally important cluster of technology and knowledge-based businesses".

He said the land to the south and south-east of the park is "the most acceptable direction for expansion".

Mr Wildsmith suggested a master plan for long-term expansion to be drawn up, but to meet shorter term needs he recommended planning permission be granted for limited growth outside its current boundary.

He recognised the value of the Kent Science Park Resource Centre, which offers a BSc foundation degree.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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Convincing Kent's business leaders to carry on choosing a Mercedes-Benz

Staying positive

Arguably 2008 is one of the most uncertain years for business in a decade. Here **Jo James**, director of membership services for Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce tries to gauge the overall feel for prospects in the next 12 months – and believes confidence is the key

I BELIEVE that 2008 could be described as an "interesting" year for business: it is almost as if the whole business climate is hanging on a "wait and see" situation.

The Bank of England cut the interest rate by one quarter of one per cent, but with promises of more to come in the New Year, that should be good news.

"The climate facing UK businesses has worsened, and the position will become riskier and more difficult over the next year," said the British Chambers of Commerce, in the assessment of its Quarterly Economic Survey.

But it observed: "The business sector is still strong... we urge the Government to pay particular attention to threats facing small businesses."

Dennis Turner, Chief Economist of HSBC Bank, commenting in the bank's December economic commentary on the interest rate cut by the Bank of England said: "The behaviour of the labour market confirms that the economy remains in reasonable shape. New jobs are still being created, employment in the three months to September hit a new all-time high and the claimant count measure of unemployment fell back to 825,000, the lowest for three years."

"It appears to be fear of what is to come rather than what has already happened that forced the Monetary Policy Committee's hand."

The UK Government has managed to delay implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive, which could potentially cost UK businesses up to 250,000 jobs, according to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

David Frost, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The proposals in the directive unfairly impact on the UK



CONFIDENCE: Jo James, from Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce says we should not have a negative attitude

economy as we currently employ a third of all EU agency workers. The Directive also risks the established flexibility of our labour market, which has been a major factor driving job creation." The legislation will be discussed again next year.

The Halifax has reported the third consecutive monthly fall in house prices, the first time this has happened since 1995. Consumer confidence indicators are at their lowest levels for five years.

In an unprecedented move, central banks around the world took coordinated action to boost liquidity, announcing steps to make it easier for stressed banks to access cash in the hopes of quelling the knock-on impact of the credit crunch. But if that does not work, what then?

Wow! Hold on to your hats, business people – we might be in for a rough ride.

There again, we might not. It does seem to

me that is precisely where we are – nowhere precise. In all the years I have been involved in business support, I don't think we have ever been in such an unpredictable position.

There is an optimistic view. If all these "wait and see" aspects work out on the positive side the economic stability and prosperity we have enjoyed for the last few years will continue.

I think we can all contribute to the positive. All the indications are that we are doing quite well at the minute, thank you – but everybody seems to think that things are bound to go bad.

This is a negative attitude, which can in itself contribute to economic turn-down. There is such a thing as "talking down" the economy. I'm not suggesting that we should ignore indicators and act irresponsibly, but confidence – in consumers and businesses – is catching.

Let us all have a Happy New Year, and look on the bright side!



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Strike denies Lovell victory on return

FOOTBALL

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

Sittingbourne 1 Ashford Town 1

A 94th minute equaliser from Hicham Akhazzan denied former Sittingbourne manager Steve Lovell a priceless win at Bourne Park.

Former Brickie Mark Lovell had given Ashford a seventh minute lead with a neat finish after being put through by strike partner Paul Jones.

The away side dominated much of the game as neither side created any clear cut chances until the end of the game.

On Steve Lovell's return to Sittingbourne after leaving the club for Ashford in November, his side looked in control after taking the lead and things were in their favour after Bourne striker Sabeur Trabelsi was shown his second yellow card of the game for an innocuous challenge on the hour mark.

Substitute Walid Matata should have made the game safe when he ran clean through in the 93rd minute, but he screwed his effort wide.

Then, with time added on, a lofted ball into the Ashford box somehow fell to Akhazzan who twisted and shot into the bottom corner to give his side a share of the spoils.

Sittingbourne assistant manager Richard Brady said: "It was not a good game from a watching point of view. We were a little bit lightweight up front with Bradley Spice out but we are looking for a target man – but who isn't at this level. I think we done well to come back with ten men to be fair. We scored an injury time equaliser against Worthing and we have done it again, so that shows the character in the team."

The Brickies had a good Christmas period after a Boxing Day win over rivals Whitstable Town at the Belmont Ground. Two goals in the second half from Kieran Marsh and Dave Milton secured the points.



LEVELLER: Brickies striker Hicham Akhazzan (in yellow - pictured here playing against Whitstable in an earlier league encounter) scored a last gasp equaliser against Ashford Town to deny old boss Steve Lovell a win on his return

Year ends badly for Lilywhites at the Lane

THE Lilywhites ended the year on a low with a defeat and the unwanted statistic of having won only two league games at Salters Lane in 2007.

The last defeat came at the hands of Sevenoaks on Saturday, who went ahead courtesy of a seventh minute strike from Steve O'Keefe.

Skipper Tom Hickman and central defender Darren Constable were both unavailable for selection, although Dan Whelan and Sean Hetterley returned to Town's starting 11 with striker Karl Baron starting his first game for the Lilywhites.

The game itself was a scrappy affair from start to finish and was hampered further by the constant whistling of referee Andy Carter whose pedantic interference put paid to any chance of a flowing match.

The Town defence failed to deal with O'Keefe after seven minutes who found the back of the net with a rather ordinary strike from the edge of the area.

Chances for the home side were few and far between, Wes Hammond and Dane Luchford

FOOTBALL

Faversham Town 0 Sevenoaks 1

both went close with headers although 'Oaks keeper Danny Firkins was seldom challenged.

Rob Hudson pulled off a fine save to deny a Matt Parsons free-kick, Hudson's fingertips doing just enough to deflect the ball.

The second half was almost as uneventful as the first period with chances being squandered at both ends of the pitch. The crowd of 158 were entertained more by the antics of the man in black than the players of either team.

Town boss Justin Luchford was ordered from the dug-out for over-zealous encouragement as the referee brandished yellow cards on numerous occasions in what was a far from ill-tempered game.

Faversham Town are next in action when they face Beckenham Town in the quarter-final of the Kent Senior Trophy at Salters Lane on January 5.

yoursware

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

It's been an eventful year of sport in the county

THE biggest event in the 2007 sporting calendar was the Tour de France which swept through the streets of Kent, but there were a number of highlights in the county last year.

JANUARY: Maidstone United moved one step closer to a return to the town after work began on a new ground at the former Ministry of Defence site in James Whatman Way. The club acquired a 99-year lease on the site, courtesy of a £98,000 council loan.

FEBRUARY: Former Arsenal and England striker Ian Wright became a director of Ryman Division One South strugglers Ashford Town. Wright hoped to make an impact on the club's youth set-up by taking the role of director of football strategy.

MARCH: After seven years in the wilderness, plans to revive Canterbury City Football Club were given the green light. The club folded in 1999 due to lack of interest, but at a public meeting, the club were given the go-ahead to join the British Energy County League.

APRIL: Margate boxer Mehrdud Takaloo lost his WBU Welterweight crown in front of 35,000 fans at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. Takaloo was defeated on points in his title fight with Michael Jennings from Chorley.

MAY: Steve Bennett from Orpington became the first referee to take charge of an FA Cup final at the new Wembley Stadium, as Chelsea defeated Manchester United 1-0. Bennett said: "It's every referee's dream to officiate the cup final and I guess it makes it extra special because of where it's taking place and the teams that are involved."

JUNE: Kent cricket coach Graham Ford caused controversy after he appeared to verbally accept a one-year deal to coach the India national side. After the South African travelled to Chennai for an interview, he declined the role to remain at Kent.

JULY: The sun-drenched streets of Kent hosted one of the world's biggest sporting events in the form of the Tour de France. More than two million people lined the 126-mile stage, which took in Dartford, Medway, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Ashford.

AUGUST: Kent lifted their first trophy in six years after beating Gloucestershire in the final of the Twenty20 Cup at Edgbaston. Ryan McLaren starred, taking the first hat-trick in a Twenty20 final.

SEPTEMBER: Gillingham chairman Paul Scally began his search for a new manager after Ronny Jepson quit the club. Jepson offered his resignation on September 9 after losing five of the first six games to end his 22-month spell at the Kent club.

OCTOBER: The England rugby team displayed great courage in reaching the World Cup final, no more so than ex-Tunbridge Wells schoolboy Martin Corry. The Leicester Tigers forward missed out on the victorious 2003 campaign Down Under, but was instrumental in helping England overcome Australia and France before losing to South Africa in the final.

NOVEMBER: Gillingham ended their eight-week search for a manager when former Stevenage and Grays boss Mark Stimson was installed. Chairman Paul Scally interviewed several candidates, but was convinced he had found the right man. He said: "Managers at a very senior level have said they believe he is a fantastic coach and manager and he is going to go on and do very well."

DECEMBER: Sir Trevor Brooking took time out of his role in offering the England job to Fabio Capello, to support Kent FA's blueprint for grassroots football to 2012. Sir Trevor said: "Football is perceived to be awash with money, but at community level that is far from the case."



CLOSE CALL: A rare attack for Faversham who ended the year on a low note at Salters Lane

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